

**Question for written answer E-003514/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Elena Kountoura (The Left)

Subject: Violation of rights of children and elderly people with disabilities by excluding them from programme funded by the Recovery and Resilience Fund

In 2021, the Greek Government established the pilot programme 'Personal Assistant for people with disabilities'. The programme aims to prevent the institutionalisation of people with disabilities and to help them live independently, with a view to improving their quality of life as well as that of their families and ensuring their equal participation in all areas of social, economic, political and cultural life¹. However, only people aged between 16 and 65 can avail themselves of the programme².

The arbitrary decision to set the age threshold at 16 constitutes unacceptable discrimination³ as it essentially cuts out an age group that would benefit significantly from having a personal assistant in that it would make a real difference to the development/support of their physical abilities and their emotional and cognitive development.

Given that:

– EUR 41 million from the Recovery and Resilience Fund is being pumped into the programme and EUR 320 million from the NSRF is to be spent on its nationwide implementation;

– this discrimination is at odds with the UN Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Rights of the Child, as well as with the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030⁴,

can the Commission answer the following:

1. How does it view the age discrimination shown by the programme 'Personal Assistant for people with disabilities', which excludes children with disabilities and elderly people?
2. Does it plan to raise this issue with the Greek Government and ask for the programme to be amended in order to reverse this unacceptable discrimination?

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¹ According to Article 32 'Purpose' of Law No 4837/2021, the provision is based on Article 19 'Living independently and being included in the community' of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

² This applies to people with a certified disability (motor, intellectual, developmental or sensory). Beneficiaries of the pilot programme are selected on the basis of pre-defined criteria, with particular weight given to social and income-related criteria.

³ Particularly in cases where an adolescent has such a serious and complex disability and medical condition and has no real way of receiving care and support from other State services.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/?uri=COM:2021:101:FIN#PP4Contents>