

**Question for written answer E-003737/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Kostas Papadakis (NI), Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)**

**Subject:** Dangerous announcements by the government regarding addiction

The Nea Dimokratia government has announced the introduction of a draft law on completion of the psychiatric reform, part of which is the establishment of a National Organisation for Preventing and Combating Addiction (EOPAE). EOPAE will be a legal entity under private law with directors appointed by the government, and will combine in six departments all the approved prevention and treatment programmes that are in operation in the country.

This development is exclusively the outcome of a 'cost-benefit' policy, as it is part of the EU strategy which has been faithfully served by all governments to date, promoting understaffing and underfunding of prevention centres and therapeutic programmes.

In view of this:

1. What is the Commission's take on the fact that EU guidelines, which promote harm reduction at the expense of withdrawal treatment, raise the unacceptable prospect of cancellation or merging of prevention and rehabilitation programmes, institutions and services, and their transfer to the private sector, with all the harmful consequences this will entail for those undergoing treatment and their families, and for employees?
2. What is its take on the fact that the appropriately qualified therapeutic personnel, together with the majority of directors of the therapeutic programmes operating in Greece, citing solid scientific evidence and criteria, are strongly opposed to the changes being proposed; and that the therapeutic programmes and prevention centres need to be supported with funds and personnel, new structures and need-based services, with costs exclusively covered from the national budget, ensuring the appropriate philosophy and exclusively free and public nature of these services?

Submitted: 20.12.2023