

**Question for written answer E-000523/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)**

**Subject:** Criminal unavailability of blood transfusions for patients and severe blood shortages in hospital blood transfusion units

A severe shortage of blood in blood transfusion units is putting the lives of many patients with disabilities, chronic conditions, and Thalassaemia at risk and is leading patients, disability associations, parents and hospital staff to protest. The unavailability of blood transfusions in paediatric hospitals is particularly worrying, with children receiving less than a third of the blood they need, increasing the risk of other health problems arising and even reducing life expectancy.

The criminal policy espoused by the EU and the New Democracy government, but also of previous governments, treats health as a commodity, leaving blood transfusion units understaffed, so without enough doctors and nurses, but also without the necessary equipment. Responsibility thus passes from the state to the individual and patients are forced to look for blood donors themselves.

In view of this:

1. What is the Commission's position regarding the reliable scientific evidence available, which shows that, for months now, blood transfusions have not been properly carried out, with around 700 patients with Thalassaemia – children and adults – being faced with a criminally low availability of blood and with patients having blood transfusions postponed or cancelled?
2. What does it have to say about the fact that the strategy adopted by the EU and national governments is leading to the discrediting and shrinking of blood transfusion units because of reduced funding, with negative consequences for patients with Thalassaemia and other chronic conditions, who, together with their families, healthcare workers and the public in general, are calling for the units in question to be fully staffed with the necessary medical personnel and for new infrastructure to be developed based on modern-day needs?

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