

**Question for written answer E-003075/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: The exhausting working conditions of firefighters

For all the fanfare about supposedly ‘strengthening’ civil protection – as exhibited by the Greek Prime Minister in the presence of the Commissioner responsible for crisis management, Hadja Lahbib, in relation to the receipt of the first firefighting vehicles after 6 whole years of governance – firefighters continue to face the perpetuation of stand-by duties, intensifying work and lack of proper rest. The fact that the vast majority of the vehicles announced by the government are personnel carriers reveals the gameplan followed by the EU and national governments: firefighters should be understaffed, flexible and permanently mobile.

In Greece, there are still more than 4 000 unfilled posts. The flexibility of employment relationships is continuing and growing, with four parallel staff categories currently in place: permanent, five-year, seasonal and contract staff. The coverage of needs through seasonal workers is institutionally established, with governments’ longstanding responsibilities set out in Laws 3938/2011 and 4662/2020.

In view of the above, the Commission is asked:

1. What view does it take of the fact that the intensification of work and the overwork of firefighters in Greece and other EU Member States is the result of chronic understaffing, the generalisation of labour flexibility and mobility, the underfunding of public firefighting and civil protection services under the EU’s ‘cost-benefit’ policy and the commercialisation of civil protection structures?
2. What view does it take of the fact that the establishment of the EU’s rescEU mechanism, far from solving the above problems, exacerbates them by preserving and recycling the scant and exhausted firefighting personnel and resources from country to country?

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