

Question for written answer E-003264/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Maria Zacharia (NI)

Subject: Systematic discrimination against unsubsidised foster parents in Greece –
Violation of EU law and undermining of the European Child Guarantee

According to petition No 0252/2025, which has been declared admissible by the Committee on Petitions, Greece perpetuates institutionalised discrimination against foster families caring for minor children without receiving any financial support, even when the fostering has been decided by order of a court or prosecutor.

In its official response, the General State Accounting Office admits that no allowance is granted when the fostering is linked to a future adoption, because such foster parents ‘are not part of the child protection system’. This constitutes a blatant violation of Article 4 of Regulation (EC) 883/2004, Articles 21 and 34 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, as well as the European Child Guarantee (2021/C 109/01).

This practice invalidates Law 4538/2018, deprives children of the protection they are entitled to and undermines deinstitutionalisation.

Despite the interventions of the Ombudsman, the Greek Government refuses to comply, with the result that the lack of subsidy leads dozens of children back into institutional care and discourages foster carers.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to send a formal recommendation (or letter of formal notice) to the Greek Government, calling on it to eliminate immediately the discrimination between subsidised and non-subsidised foster carers?
2. Will the Commission initiate infringement proceedings against Greece?
3. Will the Commission oblige Greece to submit a specific timetable for compliance with the European Child Guarantee regarding foster families through the next cycle of the European Semester?

Submitted: 20.8.2025