

Question for written answer E-003718/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Kostas Papadakis (NI)

Subject: Teacher shortages in schools

Yet another year of serious teacher shortages is affecting pupils' educational rights.

In Greece, thousands of schools are starting the year without the teachers they need. This is especially true in the area of special needs, where the shortfall is enormous. Every year, schools take on more than 40 000 supply teachers, while 4 000 to 7 000 teachers retire. The number of teachers recruited on permanent contracts is insufficient.

Following a policy of spending cuts – while simultaneously pouring EUR 26 billion into the arms industry – the Nea Dimokratia Government has decided against hiring the necessary staff, instead choosing to spread resources more thinly, resulting in classrooms of more than 30 children.

The policy of hiring minimal permanent staff and expanding flexible working arrangements has left tens of thousands of supply teachers in a precarious situation.

Teachers' salaries remain low, while the high cost of living and the lack of affordable housing make it impossible to get by.

In the light of the above, what view does the Commission take of:

1. the fact that the enormous teacher shortages and delays in filling vacancies result in thousands of children being deprived of the right to education?
2. the fact that the EU's policy of 'budget cuts' and 'spending rationalisation' is driven by the arms race of the war economy and leads to fewer permanent appointments, the widespread use of flexible work contracts and the shifting of education-related costs onto working-class families?
3. the fact that, as denounced by teacher associations in Greece and across the EU, such large class sizes make a meaningful and efficient educational process impossible?

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