

Question for written answer E-004831/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Kostas Papadakis (NI)

Subject: The dangerous situation of the understaffed National Organisation for Preventing and Combating Addiction (EOPAE) and the rights of contract workers

The fixed-term contracts of 350 employees at EOPAE, who work under a regime that degrades the services provided, are expiring.

This is a result of the ‘psychiatric reform’, the EU’s 2021-2025 drugs strategy and action plan and its more general policies on addiction, which prioritise ‘harm reduction’.

The ‘cost-benefit’ policy, which treats prevention and addiction treatment not as a social right but as an ‘expense’, is being promoted and opens this sector to business activity.

What is the Commission’s position on:

1. the fair and urgent demands of contract workers for the immediate renewal and extension of all contracts, their conversion into permanent contracts and for additional recruitment of permanent staff to address the dramatic understaffing, contrary to the EU guidelines for ‘fiscal discipline’ and ‘labour market flexibility’, which contribute to the maintenance and expansion of precarious employment?
2. the dangerous development for hundreds of service users and their families who will be left without treatment, as entire units are at risk of being left up in the air in a few months, since they are staffed exclusively by contract workers?
3. the fact that the EU's harmful directions for the liberalisation and commercialisation of public health and social care, the promotion of individual responsibility and the pursuit of the best cost-benefit ratio, particularly in the sensitive field of addiction treatment, are watering down services and programmes of enormous scientific competence that have contributed to the treatment of addiction for decades?

Submitted: 5.12.2025