

Question for written answer E-000674/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Nikos Pappas (The Left)

Subject: Effective access to legal abortion services and invocation of conscientious objection

In the light of the European Parliament resolution on the European Citizens' Initiative 'My Voice, My Choice', which highlights that practical barriers to accessing safe abortion services persist in the European Union, a recent journalistic investigation in Greece has found that a significant number of public hospitals do not provide abortion services, even though abortion is allowed under Law 1609/1986 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 86/3-7-1986). These services are not being provided due to conscientious objection by medical staff, coupled with the lack of a functioning referral mechanism, particularly in island and remote areas. This results in women travelling to other regions or turning to the private sector.

Given that the lack of effective access to a legal health service based on place of residence or financial wherewithal may constitute indirect discrimination and a gender equality issue, taking into account Articles 21, 23 and 35 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, as well as Article 168(1) TFEU and Principle 16 of the European Pillar of Social Rights, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it consider that extensive conscientious objection without effective alternative access is compatible with the obligation of equal access to health services?
2. What specific obligations do Member States have to ensure a functioning referral system in such cases?
3. Does the Commission intend to assess geographical disparities in access to legal abortion services within Member States?

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