

**Question for written answer E-000721/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: Population redistribution policies

The overconcentration of population and economic activity in urban areas, such as Athens and the neighbouring municipalities in Attica, puts increasing pressure on residents' quality of life. Rising housing and travel costs, congestion, the environmental burden and limited access to public spaces are linked to deteriorating mental health indicators and general social discontent. At the same time, overconcentration of people in urban areas generates 'diseconomies of scale', while large regions of the country face depopulation and underutilisation of infrastructure.

Bearing in mind that the EU's cohesion policy, the relevant funds (ERDF, ESF+) and the Recovery Fund aim to foster territorial cohesion and reduce regional disparities, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is it monitoring the effects of overconcentration of Member States' populations in capital cities, in particular the impact on mental health, cost of living and the sustainability of urban infrastructure?
2. Are there European tools or guidelines that encourage policies of voluntary relocation, the strengthening of teleworking and the transfer of public services to areas away from urban centres?
3. Does it intend to step up financial and technical support to Member States pursuing spatial balancing strategies with the aim of decongesting urban centres and reviving areas away from urban centres?

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