

Question for written answer E-001087/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: State of the public health system in Greece and citizens' access to health services

According to recent reports and news articles, the Greek national health system (ESY) is facing severe staff shortages and significant failures in the operation of health structures. It is estimated that there are thousands of vacant doctors' and nurses' posts, and in many hospitals operating theatres and clinics remain closed due to a lack of staff.

Meanwhile, waiting times for planned surgeries can be as long as 6-8 months. Around 21.9 % of citizens say they are not getting the treatment they need due to costs, organisational problems or a weakness in the health system. Moreover, private health payments remain particularly high, with citizens covering around 33 % of total health expenditure. This percentage is significantly higher than the OECD average.

At the same time, low wages and difficult working conditions drive many doctors to migrate, further exacerbating staff shortages.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What is its assessment of the state of the Greek public health system and citizens' access to health services?
2. Are there any European control mechanisms to verify the use of European funds in the Greek health sector?
3. Does it intend to look into measures to reinforce the healthcare workforce and ensure equal access to health services for citizens?

Submitted: 17.3.2026