

**Question for written answer E-001778/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)

Subject: Exhausting on-call shifts in Greek National Health Service hospitals

The case of a specialist doctor being forced to carry out five consecutive 24-hour on-call shifts¹ once again calls into question Greece's compliance with EU law as regards working conditions and rest periods for healthcare workers. It also highlights not only the enormous understaffing and the unfavourable and exhausting conditions prevailing in public health bodies, but also the risks that such practices pose to the protection of the health and safety of staff and patients.

In light of Directive 2003/88/EC, can the Commission say:

1. Does it consider that the practice of carrying out consecutive 24-hour on-call shifts without adequate rest is in line with EU law?
2. How does it assess the risk to the health and safety of both staff and patients resulting from such practices?
3. Does it intend to investigate a possible breach of the directive by Greece (see CJEU judgment C-180/2014)?

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¹ <https://www.documentonews.gr/article/sygklonizei-i-paidiatros-pou-katerrefse-meta-5-synechomenes-efimeries-eimai-kourasmeni-den-boro-allo/>.