

Question for written answer E-002847/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Geadis Geadí (ECR)

Subject: Crisis in mental health services in Cyprus and possibilities for European support

Cyprus is experiencing serious and persistent mental health shortages. According to the Pan-Cyprian Association for Mental Health Organisations, the number of psychiatric beds is exceedingly low – 18 beds per 100 000 inhabitants – compared to the European average of 73. Athalassa Hospital is experiencing overcrowding, understaffing, a shortage in medicines and a lack of adequate treatment programmes and psychosocial programmes. Specifically, it has been reported that wards with sufficient staff for and designed to accommodate 60 patients are currently hosting around 120 patients, with some sleeping on mattresses on the floor.

Despite the preparation of a three-year national strategy for the period 2025-2028, community care remains inadequate, with shortages in sheltered accommodation facilities, day centres, support for families/carers, etc.

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

1. What funding and technical support options are available to the Republic of Cyprus for the completion of the new Athalassa Hospital, the development of community mental health infrastructure and, in general, the implementation of actions proposed in the National Action Plan?
2. Is there a European institution that could follow the content of the treatment programme that is in place in voluntary and involuntary hospitalisation facilities and advise/complement/provide training in therapeutic approaches other than medication, e.g. psychosocial support programmes or other approaches recommended by modern psychiatry?

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