

**Question for written answer E-003138/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Kostas Papadakis (NI)

Subject: Closure of the transitional shelter for psychoactive substance users and the dissolution of treatment structures

The closure of the transitional shelter for psychoactive substance users – the only temporary accommodation structure for homeless drug addicts in Athens – is yet another dangerous development for people with substance misuse problems.

This is another consequence of the implementation of EU guidelines, which the Nea Dimokratia Government is enforcing – as did SYRIZA before it – with the recent law on the ‘completion of the Psychiatric Reform’.

There has already been a push to end treatment programmes and break the continuum of care (advice-treatment-social reintegration) through the establishment of the National Organisation for Preventing and Combating Addiction (EOPAE). Facilities were brutally deprived of experienced staff following a wave of unexpected staff transfers last year. No provision is made for people with a dual diagnosis of drug dependence and mental illness to be able to join a Therapeutic Community. The fatal blow to Therapeutic Communities came with the 24-hour shifts imposed on the staff, which essentially turned these environments into ‘first aid stations’, bringing about a detrimental change in the working conditions of staff.

Given the need to take substantial measures to prevent drug addiction, for comprehensive, public, free addiction services and to support and expand ‘dry’ addiction programme units, what is the Commission’s position regarding the fact that EU policy – which is based on so-called ‘harm reduction’ and substitution treatments and which every single bourgeois government has implemented over the years on the basis of the ‘cost-benefit’ criterion, including in the field of detoxification – deliberately perpetuates drug dependence, with no meaningful measures being taken to address the issue effectively and help users and their families?

Submitted: 27.7.2026

Submitted: 27.7.2026