

Question for written answer E-003453/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Kostas Papadakis (NI)

Subject: The thousands of children without nursery places and the anti-educational ‘neighbourhood nannies’ programme

Every year, thousands of workers find themselves in a tight spot due to the shortages of places at nurseries. The Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government (EETAA) granted EUR 158 009 in vouchers for the period 2026-2027, of which EUR 106 133 was for nurseries, while the rest was for state-supported after-school activity centres for children (KDAP). Applications for after-school activity centres and after-school activity centres for children with disabilities were not covered, resulting in 41 129 children being rejected. Existing nurseries are shrinking despite the confirmed shortages of places.

The European ‘neighbourhood nannies’ programme is anti-educational and is being used as a substitute for an improved pedagogical approach.

In view of this, where does the Commission stand on:

1. parents’ long-standing call and need for all children to be admitted, without exception and selection criteria, to free and modern nurseries staffed by full-time carers rather than carers on ‘on-demand contracts’ (Directive 2019/1152)?
2. the fact that, in order to increase the number of women entering the labour market, to secure corporate profit-making, anti-educational care programmes, such as the ‘neighbourhood nannies’ one, are being implemented on the basis of the European Child Guarantee and Recommendation (EU) 2021/1004?
3. the urgent need for the billions of euros that the EU and national governments are pumping into the war industry and into supporting the profitability of corporate groups to go towards meeting the needs of ordinary people, through the establishment, for instance, of all the much-needed free, modern and upgraded nurseries, fully-staffed with qualified professionals, so that all needs are universally met under updated terms?

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