

Question for written answer E-003468/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Elena Kountoura (The Left)

Subject: Withdrawal of cancer medicines in Greece and the need to ensure equal access for all European citizens to appropriate cancer treatments

The recent decision to pull the cancer drug Trodelvy¹ from the Greek market triggered strong reactions and caused concern among patients and in the medical community as this is the fourth cancer medicine to be pulled from Greece in recent months. The decision is linked to very high clawbacks imposed in the context of Greek pharmaceutical expenditure, which, reports say, even exceed 100 % of the relevant expenditure².

Bearing in mind:

- the letter from the Hellenic Society of Medical Oncology³ calling for structural solutions to ensure the continued availability of the most effective cancer treatments for patients;
- the cancer plan for Europe, which aims to ensure that all citizens, regardless of where they live, have equal access to essential cancer treatments;
- the European Parliament's recent resolution⁴, which stresses the need to ensure equal, timely and affordable access to cancer medicines for all European patients,

can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is it aware of the recent withdrawals of cancer medicines from the Greek market, which are linked to the national pricing and reimbursement system?
2. What existing funding or other tools does it intend to harness to prevent national pricing and reimbursement systems from leading to poor and unequal patient access to approved cancer treatments and medicines?
3. Does it intend to propose new European tools to prevent similar cancer medicine withdrawals in the future?

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¹ On 23 July 2026, the National Organisation for Medicine's Committee on Medicines for Human Use adopted a favourable opinion modifying the terms of the marketing authorisation for Trodelvy and adding a new therapeutic indication for patients with triple negative breast cancer.

² A clawback is when pharmaceutical companies are obliged to return to the State money that has already been paid, when pharmaceutical expenditure exceeds the limit set in the budget.

³ The Hellenic Society of Medical Oncology (EOPE) had warned about the risk of pulling oncology medicines and had stressed that the current framework for financing innovative cancer treatments, with the increasing cost of clawbacks, poses serious risks to their sustainable availability (<https://healthdaily.gr/2026/08/27/epistoli-eope-ston-ypourgo-ygeias-gia-aposyrseis-ogkologikon-farmakon/>).

⁴ The resolution on World Cancer Day notes with concern the persistent inequalities in patients' access to cancer medicines in EU Member States.