

**Question for written answer E-003727/2026  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Maria Zacharia (NI)**

**Subject:** Protecting workers from asbestos at Kilkis General Hospital

Complaints have been lodged about the presence of materials containing asbestos in seven points of Kilkis General Hospital, including in parts of the medical emergency service where healthcare and other staff work on a daily basis.

The competent Greek authorities have been contacted by the workers' union. In an official reply to a complaint lodged by the union, the competent department of the Region of Central Macedonia stated that there is no obligation to remove materials containing asbestos if they are intact and that they only pose a health risk when they are worn or disturbed. However, there was no mention of any previous on-site check or evidence-based assessment of the current state of the materials and the risk of workers being exposed to asbestos fibres.

Directive 2009/148/EC, as amended by Directive (EU) 2023/2668, lays down stringent requirements for the protection of workers from asbestos.

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

1. Is the above practice of the Greek authorities in line with the risk prevention and assessment obligations under EU law?
2. Does it intend to ask the Greek authorities for information on the implementation of the relevant provisions and the measures to protect workers at the hospital in question?
3. What measures can the Commission take, including making use of available EU funding instruments, to ensure the safe and permanent removal of materials containing asbestos from Kilkis Hospital and from public health infrastructure in general?

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