

**Question for written answer E-004018/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Teacher shortages in Greece and the EU

The start of this school year was marked by a shortage of teachers while the previous school year ended with 5 000 unfilled posts. This year there are 30 000 substitute teachers, a drop from 45 000 last year. While the Nea Dimokratia Government insolently boasts that ‘all the permanent teachers that needed to be recruited have been recruited’, this is just a drop in the ocean. The situation is similar in Germany where there is a shortfall of 27 000 teachers and in France which is 4 000 teachers short.

What they share in common is declining state funding for public education. Instead, the EU and Member State governments are pouring money into the war economy. The EU’s NSRF programmes are coming to an end and are not being renewed, opening the door to private investment at all levels of education.

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

1. Where does it stand on the fact that teacher shortages are increasing each year, leading to units being merged into sections of up to 27 children, as a result of EU policy which views recruitment as a cost, as reflected in the EU Teachers and Trainers Agenda, which prioritises the use of substitute teachers, who end up replacing themselves each year, and a state of perpetual mobility?
2. Where does it stand on the fact that public education is being downgraded and commercialised, with funding from the state budget and European programmes such as the NSRF dwindling, instead of meeting the students’ current educational needs, while at the same time massive funding is being pumped into war budgets?

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