

**Question for written answer E-004214/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)

Subject: Large burden on private households and significant inequalities in access to healthcare in Greece

According to the State of Health in the EU report for Greece, public funding covers only 61 % of health expenditure in the country, while 34 % is covered by out-of-pocket payments – as opposed to the EU average of 16 %. Almost one in ten households are confronted with catastrophic health spending, mainly due to the cost of medicines.

Costs, waiting times and geographical distances hinder access to care, affecting the most economically disadvantaged in particular. At the same time, shortages of nursing staff, insufficient primary care and gaps in long-term care shift the burden onto patients and their families.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. What specific measures does it intend to take to help reduce the financial burden on patients in Greece, in particular for medicines and diagnostic tests?
2. How does it monitor whether EU-funded interventions in the Greek healthcare system are demonstrably reducing waiting times and inequalities in access, particularly in island and remote areas?
3. What financial tools and technical support can be used to strengthen nursing staff, primary care and long-term care, whilst ensuring the continuity of services once EU funding has come to an end?

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