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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.9.2024)

The challenges Greece faces with access to healthcare are highlighted in various reports^{1,2}. It is important to recall that the organisation and provision of health services is the competence of the Member States and EU action focuses on supporting the Member States.

Several EU4Health funded actions on access to healthcare include an action³ to assess the impact of healthcare coverage on poverty, an action⁴ to improve the affordability of healthcare, an action⁵ to improve access to healthcare for persons with disabilities and the European Cancer Inequalities Registry⁶. The mid-term evaluation of the EU4health programme is ongoing. EU4Health annual work programmes, including possible future actions on access to healthcare, are developed on an annual basis taking into account priorities identified by the Member States and stakeholders.

The Commission supports the resilience of Member States' health systems through the Recovery and Resilience Facility⁷ complementing investments under Cohesion Policy funds under the 2021-27 programming period⁸. Specifically, under the European Regional Development Fund, around EUR 367 million have been earmarked to co-finance infrastructure and equipment at all levels of care in the Greek National Health System under the 13 regional programmes. In addition, EUR 240 million from the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) has been earmarked by Greece to finance healthcare services in the 2021 – 2027 programming period, with an emphasis on community based primary healthcare.

Furthermore, the Council Recommendation establishing a European Child Guarantee calls upon the Member States to guarantee, free and effective access to healthcare for all children in need. Greece has prepared an action plan⁹.

¹ Commission Staff Working document: 2024 Country Report – Greece: https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a1f9c5fd-e785-4284-a727-1ff83e0d52cd_en?filename=SWD_2024_608_1_EN_Greece.pdf

² State of health in the EU: Synthesis report https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-12/state_2023_synthesis-report_en.pdf

³ Annex to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Programme for the Union's action in the field of health ('EU4Health Programme') and the adoption of the work programme for 2023: https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-11/wp2023_annex_en.pdf

⁴ https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-07/com_2022-5436_annex1_en.pdf

⁵ https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-07/com_2022-5436_annex2_en.pdf

⁶ <https://cancer-inequalities.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

⁷ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en

⁸ https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/cohesion_overview/21-27

⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=26063&langId=en>