

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001995/25
to the Commission
Georgios Aftias (PPE)
(19 May 2025)**

Subject: Provision of financial support for the procurement of a maritime National Centre of Emergency Care (EKAB)

Greece's vast coastline, exceeding 14 000 kilometres, makes it the longest in the European Union. There are approximately 6 000 islands, small islets and rocky islets in Greece. Of these islands, 227 are inhabited, with a population ranging from 100 to 500 inhabitants. Many of these islands do not have fully staffed hospital units. In emergencies, the urgent transport of patients to the nearest island with a hospital presents major problems. The residents of these small islands will get comfort from the existence of a maritime EKAB, as it will transport them immediately and safely to the nearest island with a hospital unit.

On the basis of this data:

1. Does the Commission intend to subsidise public bodies in Greece to procure high-speed boats, which will also be equipped with appropriate medical equipment to be used to transport patients from one island to another?
2. Can the Commission finance Coast Guard vessels, so that with relevant medical and technological upgrades they can be used to provide medical and pharmaceutical treatment to residents of hard-to-reach areas?

Submitted: 19.5.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(22 August 2025)**

Under Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU ⁽¹⁾, Member States are responsible for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care, their management and allocation of assigned resources. EU funds support access to healthcare in Greece.

The Greek Partnership Agreement under the 2021-2027 Cohesion policy funds' framework highlights the importance of emergency care and the adaptation of services, infrastructure and human resources to geographical and population-specific characteristics, based on the mapping of health needs.

Under the 2021-2027 Cohesion policy, EUR 361.9 million ⁽²⁾ is allocated for health infrastructure, equipment, mobile assets and digitalisation; and EUR 322.7 million ⁽³⁾ for the support of healthcare accessibility, effectiveness and resilience, including primary healthcare and mobile health units for remote islands.

The regional programmes of North Aegean, South Aegean, and Ionian Islands allocated EUR 4.3 million specifically for the procurement of mobile health assets.

In addition, the programme 'Civil Protection' committed EUR 7 million for the procurement of floating vessels ⁽⁴⁾ and an additional EUR 3.5 million for the procurement of isolation capsules and other equipment for emergency transport of patients.

In line with the principles of shared management and subsidiarity, national authorities are responsible for the planning, selection and monitoring of projects co-financed by Cohesion policy funds.

The Greek Recovery and Resilience Plan allocated over EUR 1.5 billion for reforms and investments in support of the healthcare system. In addition, it allocated EUR 155 million for investments on aerial means for crisis management, including helicopters for medical use.

⁽¹⁾ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT&from=en>.

⁽²⁾ Support from the European Regional Development Fund, including national contribution.

⁽³⁾ Support from the European Social Fund Plus, including national contribution.

⁽⁴⁾ The vessels to be deployed by the National Coast Guard for the transportation and evacuation of citizens during disasters.