

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004260/25
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(29 October 2025)**

Subject: Long-term crisis in the Greek national health system

Greece's national health system (the ESY) is in a dire state. A WHO report revealed that the country has one of the highest rates of unmet medical needs (21.9%). Almost one in five Greeks will not receive the treatment they need due to high costs, poor organisation or systemic incapacity.

But even when access to treatment is possible, the consequences for Greek households are no less devastating. Around a third of low-income households in Greece go bankrupt as a result of the costs necessary medical treatments.

Despite this difficult situation, government policy has left the health system depleted and stagnating. The budget allocated to health remains low and has been further reduced. Brain drain and rising inequality signal a worrying trend for the future of the ESY.

In view of the Commission's objectives of improving healthcare provision and ensuring a high level of human health for all European citizens, can the Commission say:

1. What tools and initiatives could be used to address the ESY's systemic failures and mismanagement?
2. How does it intend to investigate the proper use of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF — NextGenerationEU), the NSRFs and the European Social Fund in the ESY?
3. Does it still have the necessary support instruments to reform the ESY, ensure quality services and fight corruption, or does it limit its role to mere financing without any checks?

Submitted: 29.10.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(20 January 2026)**

EU tools and initiatives support Member States to strengthen health systems, via knowledge sharing, technical assistance, funding, policy guidance ⁽¹⁾.

This includes country-specific recommendations under the European Semester and country-specific analyses under the State of Health in the EU process ⁽²⁾.

Greece can also leverage EU funding, from the EU4Health programme, the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), or the Cohesion Policy Funds.

The Commission verifies fulfillment of milestones and targets of measures included in the Greek recovery and resilience plan (RRP) during the assessment of payment requests submitted for the RRF. In addition, the Commission has frequent exchanges with the Greek authorities aiming at the full and timely delivery of RRP projects.

Yet the implementation of RRP measures falls under Member State responsibility. Similarly, measures implemented under the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund are delivered under shared management ⁽³⁾.

The principal responsibility of taking appropriate measures to protect the financial interests of the Union and to ensure that the use of funds under the RRF complies with Union and national law lies with the Member States ⁽⁴⁾.

Nonetheless, Commission services assessed 'ex ante' each national control system and carry out 'ex post' system audits that also check whether Member States verify compliance with EU and national law, including state aid and public procurement rules.

⁽¹⁾ Please also see reply to Question E-001242/2025: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-001242-ASW_EN.html.

⁽²⁾ Under the State of Health in the EU: https://health.ec.europa.eu/state-health-eu_en.

⁽³⁾ Under shared management the principle, project selection and implementation fall under the responsibility of the national authorities which operate effective management and control systems ensuring sound financial management and compliance with EU rules.

⁽⁴⁾ As provided by Article 22 of the RRF Regulation.

Hence, the Commission obtains reasonable assurance. Similarly, for the Cohesion Policy funds, mechanisms are in place to closely monitor the implementation progress of the programmes, and alignment with EU Regulations and programme priorities.
