

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004728/25
to the Commission
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)
(28 November 2025)**

Subject: Critical shortcomings in the Greek National Centre for Emergency Care and the need for immediate European intervention

Greece has the lowest rate of citizen satisfaction with health services in the OECD (27%), while its National Centre for Emergency Care (EKAB) remains understaffed and under-equipped, especially in island and remote areas. As such, many islands only have one ambulance for round-the-clock coverage, while the lack of paramedics leads to unacceptable delays that in recent years have been linked to fatalities. Despite the interventions of the Greek Government, shortages remain systemic and are exacerbated in the tourist season.

The OECD's 2025 'Health at a Glance' report notes that the inequalities in access to emergency care in Greece were among the largest in the EU, with a significant proportion of citizens (21.9%, more than five times the European average) reporting unmet care needs due to distance or lack of infrastructure.

Can the Commission say:

1. Has it considered initiating infringement procedures (Article 258 TFEU) for Greece's persistent failure to comply with minimum standards of emergency medical care?
2. What European funding tools can be used immediately to recruit at least 500 paramedics and to renew the ambulance fleet?

Submitted: 28.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(30 March 2026)**

1. As per Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ⁽¹⁾, Member States are responsible for the organisation and delivery of their health services and medical care. In its role of guardian of the Treaties, the Commission monitors the situation and may decide to take appropriate action where there is a breach of EU law. EU tools and initiatives support Member States to strengthen health systems via knowledge sharing, technical assistance, funding and policy guidance ⁽²⁾. For example, the European Semester provides country-specific recommendations (in 2020, 2022 and 2023, Greece received recommendations to ensure adequate and equal access to healthcare) and the State of Health in the EU cycle ⁽³⁾ includes country-specific analyses.

2. The European Social Fund Plus and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in Greece support better accessibility of healthcare through various measures. In 2021-2027 Greece earmarked EUR 362 million from ERDF for public investments aiming at modernising and upgrading the provision of health services across the regions, including the purchase of state-of-the-art ambulances and mobile health units. However, in line with the shared management principles governing the funds quoted, it is the responsibility of national authorities in Greece to examine available budgets within the programmes and propose relevant measures that will enhance the functioning of such services, including through the promotion of effective human resources policies.

Greece's EUR 36.61 billion recovery and resilience plan also includes measures to strengthen healthcare; regarding healthcare workforce including in remote/rural areas, the plan includes a personal doctor reform and primary healthcare reform.

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

⁽²⁾ Please also see reply to Question E-001242/2025: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-001242-ASW_EN.html.

⁽³⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/state-health-eu_en.