

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001718/26
to the Commission
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)
(28 April 2026)**

Subject: New Democracy Government sounds death knell for municipalities' and workers' social structures

The New Democracy Government is sounding the death knell for municipalities' social structures by way of a legal provision on the staffing of local authority nurseries, kindergartens and children's creative activity centres. Employees will be hired from an online, general list of candidates, on part-time contracts lasting eight to 11 months.

EU guidelines treat social needs as a cost, handing responsibility (for preschool education) to private individuals and NGOs. Public social services adapt their services according to cost-benefit criteria. Projects qualify on performance criteria, otherwise they are not financed by EU funds, while employee salaries are linked to reciprocity through vouchers and financing is based on the number of beneficiaries.

European Union funds (NSRF) are geared towards the needs of the war economy. Specifically, Greece is reallocating EUR 634 million towards defence.

In view of the above:

1. What is the Commission's position on the fact that the new mechanism being established in municipalities imposes new unacceptable conditions on the recruitment and employment of workers as provided for in Directive (EU) 2019/1152 on 'predictable working conditions', i.e. flexible forms of employment without guaranteed hours?
2. What is the Commission's position on municipalities' social programmes being dependent on European programmes (e.g. NSRF), making the operation and continuity of municipal services uncertain, paving the way for business activity and placing additional burdens on the backs of working-class families who are no longer able to meet their standing commitments?
3. What is the Commission's position on the just demands of workers in the social structures of municipalities for permanent/stable employment and staffing with all the necessary expert and professional personnel, with full state funding, and not on fixed-term private law contracts through NSRF, as per the EU's guidelines?

Submitted: 28.4.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(14 July 2026)**

1. Directive (EU) 2019/1152 ⁽¹⁾ sets out minimum requirements for transparent and predictable working conditions across all sectors, including flexible arrangements such as on-demand or zero-hour contracts. While EU law does not prohibit such contracts, Member States must provide for effective measures to prevent abuse, ensuring compliance with the directive's provisions on transparency and predictability.
2. Regarding Greece's municipal social programmes, particularly early childhood education and care services, the Commission recognises their importance in social cohesion and employment. To ensure sustainability and reduce reliance on EU funding, a sustainability roadmap was agreed with the Greek authorities in July 2025, outlining a gradual transition to full national funding by 2030, supported by an additional EUR 162 million from the European Social Fund Plus for 2025-2029, supplementing the EUR 373 million already allocated for 2022-2025.
3. While EU funding has supported temporary employment in municipal social structures, the transition to long-term sustainability must prioritise job security and adequate staffing, as highlighted in the 2025 Quality Jobs Roadmap ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Directive (EU) 2019/1152 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on transparent and predictable working conditions in the European Union, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32019L1152>.

⁽²⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/document/download/82975aa7-bdd6-4a64-b3e3-82433901f8f7_en?filename=Quality-Jobs-Roadmap_Communication_2025.pdf.