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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.7.2026)

The Commission has no relevant information or competence to evaluate whether the exclusion of military personnel from financial benefits linked exclusively to the geographical and social conditions of a region may create conditions of indirect unequal treatment within the public sector. This is for the national authorities, including the judiciary, to determine. Notably, EU law does not guarantee that all public sector workers receive identical financial benefits. In the area of working conditions, EU law protects against discrimination of part-time or fixed-term workers in comparison to the comparable full-time or permanent workers, and against discrimination on grounds of age, sex, disability, ethnic or racial origin, religion or belief, or sexual orientation.

The Commission recognises that retention of adequate staffing in remote and border regions may be affected by economic and social conditions including the cost of living. However, the assessment of the operational readiness of the armed forces and of the incentives considered necessary to ensure sufficient personnel in areas of strategic importance remains a matter for the Greek authorities within their national competence.

The Commission does not intend to examine the situation described as such under European social cohesion or territorial balance policies, since the measure at issue concerns the remuneration and service conditions of military personnel, which are primarily a national responsibility. More generally, cohesion policy, including the European Social Fund Plus, plays a key role in reducing disparities between EU regions to promote economic, social and territorial cohesion, but it does not harmonise the pay or allowance systems applicable to national armed forces.