

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002399/26
to the Commission
Kostas Papadakis (NI)
(10 June 2026)**

Subject: Utilising the historic refugee housing blocks on Alexandra Avenue for the benefit of the people and not for business profits

The historic refugee housing blocks (Prosfygika) on Alexandra Avenue in Athens constitute an architectural monument and a site of historical remembrance of the great struggle of the Greek People's Liberation Army (ELAS) fighters in December 1944.

The unacceptable 2025 programmatic agreement concluded by the Attica Region and the Public Employment Service (DYPA) for the restoration of four out of the eight building complexes — following on from the study by the previous SYRIZA regional authority — does not include a comprehensive plan for social housing for working people, restructuring the Workers' Housing Organisation with a focus on the needs of the residents of the wider area and those living there, the surrounding areas and the area's historic character, given that these blocks are considered prime real estate and an investment opportunity and that the regeneration promoted by the regional authority is co-financed through the 'Attica' programme under the EU's ERDF/ESF+ for 2021-2027.

With this in mind:

1. What is the Commission's position on the request to formulate a comprehensive plan that ensures the creation of museums dedicated to the National Liberation Front (EAM) National Resistance and the culture of Asia Minor, preserving the bullet marks on the walls; modern social housing for working-class families; temporary accommodation for patients and their relatives from neighbouring hospitals affiliated with the National Health System; a network of structures to prevent and address violence against women; playgrounds and greenery?
2. What view does the Commission take of the need expressed as part of residents' ongoing protests — which include hunger strikes lasting several days — to ensure, without any resort to repression, that those currently living in the Prosfygika are provided with adequate alternative accommodation free of charge, with the appropriate funding?

Submitted: 10.6.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(4 September 2026)**

1. In February 2026, the Commission approved the mid-term review of the Attica 2021-2027 Programme. Under Specific Objective 4.7 for the promotion of access to affordable and sustainable housing, an action aiming to renovate the Prosfygika housing complex was included to make it available to socially vulnerable groups.

The action concerns the reconstruction of four of the eight 'refugee apartment buildings', which are owned by the Region of Attica. It includes extensive renovation works, static reinforcement and mild energy upgrades. The objective is to fully restore the functionality of the buildings and adapt them to contemporary standards for sustainable and social housing.

This action is also in line with the New European Bauhaus (NEB) ⁽¹⁾ initiative. The Commission welcomes the alignment of housing projects with NEB principles, emphasising participatory approach to ensure that historical heritage is preserved while also responding to the needs of the local population and addressing the housing challenges.

Since Cohesion Policy is implemented under shared management ⁽²⁾, the selection, design, and implementation of specific projects fall under the responsibility of national and regional authorities.

2. In this context, the Commission confirms that costs of the temporary renting of alternative accommodation of affected residents during the time of the renovation can be eligible for support under the relevant Cohesion Policy funds ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/index_en.

⁽²⁾ In accordance with Article 63 of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.

⁽³⁾ As clarified in Recital 14 of Regulation (EU) 2025/1914 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2025 amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1058 and (EU) 2021/1056 as regards specific measures to address strategic challenges in the context of the mid-term review: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1914/oj/eng>.