

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002705/26
to the Commission
Nikos Pappas (The Left)
(30 June 2026)**

Subject: Transparency and review of the free afternoon surgery programme in Greece

The free afternoon surgery programme in Greece was funded by the Recovery and Resilience Fund, under the project ‘Organisational and other interventions to speed up the completion of operations on the list of pending surgeries’, with the aim of reducing waiting times in the public health system.

However, despite the programme ending on 30 June 2026, it remains unclear how many operations were carried out in the end, what the absorption rate of funds was and how far quantitative targets were met. A full account of the physical and financial scope of the action has not been published to date.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Has it received complete information from the Greek authorities on surgery numbers and the absorption of funds and, if it has, does it intend to publish this information?
2. Does it consider that the public information provided to date meets the transparency and accountability requirements attached to the use of resources from the Recovery and Resilience Fund?
3. If it is found that the initial quantitative targets have not been met or that part of the planned resources have not been fully used, what measures does it intend to take to ensure that the action is properly implemented and evaluated?

Submitted: 30.6.2026

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

The afternoon surgery programme in Greece is supported by the Recovery and Resilience Facility ⁽¹⁾ under measure 16767 ‘Organisational Reforms in the Health System’ of the Greek recovery and resilience plan ⁽²⁾.

The relevant target for this measure is target 164a ‘Surgeries waiting list reduction’. This target will be assessed as part of Greece’s ninth payment request, which is expected to be submitted in September 2026.

In accordance with Article 24 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the Commission will assess on a preliminary basis, whether the relevant milestones and targets have been satisfactorily fulfilled only once the Member State has formally submitted its payment request, together with the corresponding evidence and supporting information.

Article 24 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 also sets out the procedure and possible consequences in cases where a milestone or target is found not to have been satisfactorily fulfilled.

The preliminary assessment will be published on the website of the Commission ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/recovery-and-resilience-facility-1_en.

⁽²⁾ https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/reforms-investments-greece_en.

⁽³⁾ https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/recovery-and-resilience-facility-1/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en?prefLang=es.