

**Question for written answer E-014879/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lampros Fountoulis (NI)

Subject: Social care for the elderly

According to a report on a Greek website¹, elderly people living in nursing homes and their families are being put in an impossible situation due to the increase of VAT, which henceforth applies to care units for the elderly, from 13% to 23%. The additional monthly charge for an average unit is now estimated at at least EUR 100 and many of those concerned are begging for a price reduction or looking for a more economical solution. They also fear that the VAT increase will lead to an increase in illegal and uncontrolled retirement homes – in terms of the quality of services provided – which will also have major implications for State revenue.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

- Is it aware of this incomprehensible development owing to the increase in VAT which will have a devastating impact on the families of elderly people living in legally operating nursing homes in Greece?
- Given the current situation in Greece, what measures will it take to contribute to the country's efforts to adopt new measures or improve existing ones in order to allow retirement homes for our elderly citizens to function properly?

¹ <http://www.kathimerini.gr/831951/article/epikairothta/ellada/kindynos-e3odoy-hlikiwnenwn-apo-oikoys-eyghrias>