

**Question for written answer E-016093/2015  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Kostas Chrysogonos (GUE/NGL)**

**Subject:** Impact of austerity measures on psychiatric facilities

Unfortunately, despite the continuing advances in psychiatry, we still come across cases where patients are subjected to outdated practices in today's Europe. In Greece, for instance, the ongoing financial crisis, combined with austerity measures, has led to understaffed psychiatric facilities and the use of outdated treatments on patients. As a result, the majority of people involved speak of a mix of 'imprisonment and treatment', rather than scientific treatment of psychiatric cases<sup>1</sup>.

At the same time, there has been an increase in the number of Greeks suffering depression, as a result of the humanitarian crisis and social exclusion, with an estimated 25 % of men and 33 % of women (approximately 850 000 men and 1.1 million women) suffering some type of depression<sup>2</sup>. It therefore seems that the mentally ill are being forced to pay a heavy price for the inhuman austerity policies being imposed, which are depriving the competent health authorities of the resources necessary to support patients and are holding up the necessary psychiatric reform<sup>3</sup>.

Can the Commission answer the following:

- Is it aware of the improvements in psychiatric treatment required in Greece?
- As part of the troika, what steps does the Commission propose taking to help upgrade the services provided to the mentally ill?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.kathimerini.gr/816409/gallery/epikairothta/ellada/egklhma-kai-ka8hlwsh-mesa-sto-yyxiatreio>

<sup>2</sup> [http://medlabgr.blogspot.com/2013/10/blog-post\\_10.html](http://medlabgr.blogspot.com/2013/10/blog-post_10.html)

<sup>3</sup> <http://news.in.gr/greece/article/?aid=1500000426>