

**Question for written answer E-014398/2015  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Deregulation of pharmaceutical profession in Greece

In case 531/06 (Commission v Italy), the European Court of Justice, underlining the need to ensure the 'reliability and quality of the provision of medicinal products to the public' and observing that 'non-pharmacists by definition lack training, experience and responsibility equivalent to those of pharmacists' (19.05.2009), ruled that that the ban on non-pharmacists operating private pharmacies was justified.

Given that the 'institutions' are calling on Greece to allow non-pharmacists to open pharmacies, while, at the same time, the Commission is bound to comply with the above judgment to the effect that 'a Member State may take the view...that...the operation of a pharmacy by a non-pharmacist may represent a risk to public health...' and that 'Member States may require that medicinal products be supplied by pharmacists':

1. Why is the Commission seeking to prevent Greece from exercising its right (and meeting its obligation) under the ECJ ruling to protect public health? Has the Greek Government raised this question during talks? Was the above judgement referred to?
2. In which EU Member States is ownership of pharmacies by non-pharmacists prohibited? Does the Commission intend to call on the governments of those countries to remove such restrictions, as Greece is being asked to do? If not, why not?