

Question for written answer E-003090/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Reform of the European economic governance framework and protecting health

On 29 April 2024, the Council adopted the package of legislation reforming the EU's economic governance framework. More specifically, the reform of the Stability and Growth Pact and the reactivation of the conditions it imposes will inevitably result in cuts in investment in health, education and housing policies.

According to a recent report by the Italian Court of Auditors, the reintroduction of EU fiscal constraints could have a particularly significant impact on the health sector. The Court emphasises that a tightening of the purse strings could exacerbate issues, especially in the health sector, where the right to health takes precedence over the balancing of the budget. In addition, the Italian Constitutional Court stated in its Judgment No 195/2024 of 6.12.2024 that 'when meeting the need to restrict public expenditure, which is also dictated by unitary euro constraints, priority must be given to reducing other expenditure that is hazy when it comes to serving to guarantee the 'fundamental' right to health referred to in Article 32 of the Constitution, which appertains to the overriding need to protect the weakest sections of the population'.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission not consider the recent reform of the Stability and Growth Pact to jeopardise the public health objectives set out in Article 168 TFEU?
2. Will the Commission check whether it is possible to reactivate the general escape clause on protecting the right to health, as a greater good enshrined in the constitution?

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