

**Question for written answer E-001699/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Implementation of competition rules in Greece – oligopoly in the telecommunications sector

In Greece there is an unprecedented level of fragmentation in the monitoring and implementation of competition rules by different authorities¹, leading to a risk of contradictory decisions being issued, a lack of coordination and piecemeal application in vital sectors. In the telecommunications sector, in particular, checks for infringements of competition rules are virtually non-existent, despite the fact that the limited number of providers constitutes a hard monopoly that is reflected in the price and quality of services.

According to international studies² and a report on the subject by the Commission³, in Greece telecommunications services cost more than in almost every other European country, and are qualitatively inferior. Complaints by consumers on this subject submitted to the Consumer's Ombudsman in 2023 reached their highest level in recent years⁴, while last year the imposition of an adjustment clause by providers and the Hellenic Telecommunications & Post Commission (EETT) was only avoided at the last minute, following objections by the Consumer's Ombudsman and consumer associations⁵.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission believe that the fragmentation of powers to monitor the implementation of EU competition rules between different national authorities promotes effective compliance with European law?
2. Given the absence of substantive checks by the competent national regulatory authority (EETT), does it intend to intervene, through its own departments, to ensure that effective measures are taken to combat market cartels and to protect consumers?

Submitted: 12.9.2024

¹ Hellenic Competition Commission, Regulatory Authority for Energy and the Hellenic Telecommunications & Post Commission

²

https://research.rewheel.fi/downloads/The_state_of_mobile_and_broadband_pricing_1H2024_PUBLIC_REDACTED_VERSION.pdf, <https://www.cable.co.uk/mobiles/worldwide-data-pricing/>

³ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/mobile-and-fixed-broadband-prices-europe-2022>

⁴ <https://www.synigoroskatanaloti.gr/el/etisia-ekthesi-2023>

⁵ <https://www.ekpizo.gr/%CE%BF%CE%B9-%CE%B4%CF%81%CE%AC%CF%83%CE%B5%CE%B9%CF%82-%CE%BC%CE%B1%CF%82/%CF%84%CE%B7%CE%BB%CE%B5%CF%80%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%BF%CE%B9%CE%BD%CF%89%CE%BD%CE%AF%CE%B5%CF%82/%CE%B5%CE%BA%CF%80%CE%BF%CE%B9%CE%B6%CF%89-%CE%B8%CE%B5%CF%84%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AE-%CE%B7-%CE%BC%CE%B7-%CE%B5%CF%86%CE%B1%CF%81%CE%BC%CE%BF%CE%B3%CE%AE-%CF%84%CE%B7%CF%82-%E2%80%9C%CF%81%CE%AE%CF%84%CF%81%CE%B1%CF%82-%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%B1%CF%80%CF%81%CE%BF%CF%83%CE%B1%CF%81%CE%BC%CE%BF%CE%B3%CE%AE%CF%82%E2%80%9D-%CF%83%CF%84%CE%B1>