

**Question for written answer E-002138/2024/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 144
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)**

Subject: Deluge of SLAPPs and absurd claims against independent media in Greece

Well-known independent media in Greece¹ have been hit by a deluge of SLAPPs lately, and readers are raising funds for court cases².

Aristidis Floros, convicted at first instance for his involvement in the Energa-Hellas Power scandal, which caused losses to the public sector amounting to hundreds of millions of euro, is now suing for retrospective deletion of hundreds of articles covering the case, on the grounds that he was acquitted of charges at a higher instance. The actions were lodged immediately after dismissal of the case³ of the former head of the Prime Minister's Office, Grigoris Dimitriadis, concerning journalistic coverage of the phone-tapping scandal. Mr Dimitriadis, who was an associate of Floros⁴, left the Prime Minister's Office in the wake of disclosures about the monitoring mechanism.

Powerful interests are not only trying to destroy the media, but even – with absurd demands to delete media reports – to gag the journalistic coverage of political and economic scandals, a situation which journalists' associations and international media organisations have condemned in the strongest terms⁵.

In view of the above, the Commission is asked:

1. Given that the field of application of the Anti-SLAPP Directive is limited to cross-border cases, so that its regulatory scope is practically minimised, and the prospect of comprehensively combating such abusive practices is undermined, and ultimately this Directive is, de facto, an inadequate and ineffective attempt at regulation, does it intend to take initiatives to amend it?
2. By what other means does it intend to combat this phenomenon, which is damaging from a rule of law point of view, in Greece and other Member States?

Submitted: 17.10.2024

¹ <https://www.documentonews.gr/article/epixeirisi-diagrafis-tis-dimosiografias-teixos-gia-tin-eleytherotypia-meta-to-adianoito-aitima-toy-aristeidi-floroy-tis-energa/>

² <https://tvxs.gr/news/ellada/dikastikes-dioxeis-kata-tvxs-sygkinoy-n-oi-prosfores-kai-ta-minymata-allileggyis-apo-toys-anagnostes/>

³ https://www.efsyn.gr/politiki/449614_predator-mia-proti-niki-tis-eleytherias-toy-typoy?__cf_chl_tk=PmmFAo7czUJ2Nbw5tExkapICwWjb53XvA.2qMbN_u9A-1729153003-1.0.1.1-BrsifaWtdGpncOSL_spXSdr1quhro7fvZs0OUpz6vwc

⁴ <https://www.documentonews.gr/article/anipsios-toy-kyriakoy-synetairos-toy-flwroy/>

⁵ <https://govwatch.gr/finds/katadiki-ton-agogon-toy-grigori-dimitriadi-kata-mme-kai-dimosiografon/>