

Question for written answer E-002387/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR), Galato Alexandraki (ECR)

Subject: Recycling stations

Recycling stations [known as ‘recycling houses’ in Greece] have been speedily installed across Greece (in Athens, Thessaloniki, Rhodes, Ioannina, Karditsa, Hydra, Evia and Nafplio) on the basis of a shaky legal framework.

The Association of Architects is complaining that a made-to-measure provision was approved for the installation of the gigantic metal bins in squares, open spaces and important spots across Greece, including inside the city of Athens (i.e. near listed buildings, archaeological sites and squares). The association complains that the provision dodges the need to obtain a building permit from the Board of Architects and that the installation of the recycling stations is not subject to the conditions laid down in the urban planning provisions.

The Association of Architects is calling for a repeal of the made-to-measure provision (Article 39 of Law 4964/2022) with retroactive effect so that the metal bins and accompanying structures can be taken down. It is also calling for the tender for the installation of the metal bins to be checked and for a cost analysis to be carried out.

It should be noted that in Athens the project was launched with a budget of EUR 14 750 000. The single company that bid in the tender to create 50 ‘recycling corners for four types of waste’ was awarded the project.

The overall budget for the project was EUR 18 259 000, which means that each of the 50 recycling corners costs EUR 365 180, with numerous press reports calling it a major scandal.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. How much money was given to Greece for these recycling stations?
2. What were the conditions?
3. Did it ensure these conditions were met by the national authorities and the municipalities and, if so, how?

Submitted: 3.11.2024