

Question for written answer E-001701/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: Supporting artisans/artists on the Greek islands

The Greek islands have artists who produce exceptional creations, usually intended for the local tourist market, as they are linked to the tradition, raw materials and the overall product of each small place. Local island production supports a small productive ecosystem, contributing to the final tourist product. With the challenges that insularity entails, especially on the smaller islands, many artists are particularly tested by choosing to remain in their location and profession, mainly due to feelings of patriotism and not the possibility of substantial profit. It is noted that local artists are under pressure from mass production, mainly from non-EU countries, but also from the difficulty of securing their intellectual property rights.

In Portugal (Azores, Madeira with 4-9 %), in Spain (Canary Islands, max.7 %) and in France (Guadeloupe, Martinique) clearly more favourable tax rates are currently in force compared to the mainland.

Unfortunately, in Greece the previously existing low rates were abolished by the 2015 memorandum, with disastrous results for the small producers/artisans of our islands. It seems that in sales of local artistic creations/souvenirs, the tax is essentially equal to the profit made by the artists/artisans (approximately one quarter of the price).

In view of the above:

1. With Greece showing 'high primary surpluses' and moving to 'early repayment of memorandum loans', does the Commission consider that there is room to support the producers/artisans of the Greek islands?
2. Is there a framework for the technical briefing of the Greek Government on good practices on other European islands?

Submitted: 29.4.2025