

**Question for written answer E-003265/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)**

Subject: Ensuring transparency, meritocracy and effective use of European research resources in Greece

In Greece, EUR 300 million from the Recovery and Resilience Fund (RRF) were planned for allocation to three programmes:

- ‘Universities of Excellence’, for top-level university equipment and infrastructure, where, however, fragmentation into small projects of EUR 30-40 000 essentially led to waste.

- ‘Research Excellence Partnerships’, for partnerships between universities and businesses, where, however, evaluation of the proposals was carried out in the absence of evaluation criteria.

- ‘Trust Your Stars’, for supporting young researchers and implementing high-level research programmes, where over 1 000 proposals were evaluated in just two months by a committee of just 12 experts, who also evaluated proposals outside their area of expertise, with the obvious use of artificial intelligence tools, and delays so long that funding deadlines were missed.

On the contrary, the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI), as a reliable and accepted expert mechanism, with experience in managing research projects and proven know-how, was not utilised at all.

Already 52 university professors and researchers, in a letter to the Prime Minister, are requesting the revocation of the evaluation results and the establishment of new independent re-evaluation committees with transparent procedures and expert specialists.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of the above scandalous and humiliating conditions for knowledge-based research?
2. How are such conditions assessed on the basis of best practice established by strategies, directives and frameworks promoted by the EU?
3. What interventions are envisaged in similar cases?

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