

Question for written answer E-003476/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: High rate of indirect taxation in Greece due to failure to implement European directives

At a press conference held in the context of the 89th Thessaloniki International Fair, the Prime Minister of Greece refrained from answering the following crucial question:

‘Why is Greece not yet in line with Directive (EU) 2022/542 on reduced or zero VAT on basic goods (food, medicines, etc.) and Directive (EU) 2020/285 on increasing the VAT exemption threshold for small enterprises up to EUR 85 000, when the Commission has already warned that it will refer the country to the European Court of Justice?’

Failure to implement these directives deprives Greek citizens of the possibility of access to cheaper basic goods and medicines, which would help provide relief from the high cost of living and strengthen small businesses. At the same time, the country continues to be burdened with an excessive indirect taxation rate, reaching 17.3 % of GDP, making it one of the highest in the European Union.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following:

1. How does it intend to ensure Greece’s full and timely compliance with these directives?
2. What measures does it intend to take to ensure that citizens and small and medium-sized enterprises do not pay the cost of government inaction, but that the government bears the consequences of its own negligence, no matter the cause?

Submitted: 8.9.2025