

**Question for written answer E-000970/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Shortcomings in the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/1191 by Greek administrative and consular authorities

Regulation (EU) 2016/1191 was introduced with the aim of facilitating the free movement of citizens within the EU by abolishing legalisation or apostille requirements for certain public civil status documents, introducing multilingual standard forms and simplifying translation procedures. Greek citizens residing or active in other Member States have reported that Greek administrative or consular authorities are still demanding apostilles, certified translations or other additional paperwork. This entails financial cost, loss of working time and possible cases of unequal treatment.

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

1. Has it verified to what extent Greece has implemented Regulation (EU) 2016/1191 with regard to ending the legalisation/apostille requirement for certain civil status documents, the mandatory acceptance of the multilingual standard forms provided for in the regulation and the envisaged translation arrangements?
2. If shortcomings have been identified, what specific infringements, administrative practices or differences in interpretation has it recorded, and what corrective measures does it intend to take?
3. In addition, has it examined whether the current practices of Greek consular or internal administrative authorities – such as demanding apostilles, certified translations or other additional paperwork – result in disproportionate costs, delays or discriminatory treatment between married parents whose marriage has already been registered in Greece, married parents whose marriage was performed abroad but has not yet been registered and unmarried parents and, if so, does it consider that such differentiation constitutes a possible breach of EU law requiring further action?

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