

**Question for written answer E-003221/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: Ensuring the continued operation of the MERE chain in Greece and protecting employees, suppliers and consumers

The recent suspension of the operation of the MERE chain outlets in Greece, as a consequence of the imposition of restrictive measures against the group's main shareholder, has left approximately 170 employees out of work, created serious uncertainty for hundreds of Greek suppliers and deprived thousands of consumers of access to a chain with particularly competitive prices. MERE had developed a low-cost retail model, offering particularly competitive prices in a period of increased cost of living, which makes the effects of its suspension of operations all the more intense for consumers.

According to publicly available information, the suspension is not related to any problem with the Greek company but to the effects of sanctions on its corporate control.¹

The EU has repeatedly stated that sanctions must be targeted and avoid disproportionate collateral consequences for innocent workers, businesses and citizens.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. What legal corporate or administrative actions could allow MERE's swift reopening in Greece, without violating the current sanctions regime?
2. Does the Commission intend to provide guidance or other assistance to the Greek authorities and the company, in order to protect jobs, supplier contracts and the smooth functioning of the market, until the company reopens?
3. Does the Commission envisage, since the impact of the sanctions provided for is against Greek society, expedited screening procedures?

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¹ <https://www.newmoney.gr/roh/palmos-oikonomias/epixeiriseis/mere-i-kirosis-tis-ee-pagosan-ke-ta-11-katastimata-stin-ellada/>.