

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000817/25
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(22 February 2025)**

Subject: Consistently high levels of corruption in Greece

According to Transparency International, Greece continues to rank 59th out of 180 countries in terms of its corruption perception, with its score stable compared to last year (49 points out of 100), putting it on a par with Namibia and Slovakia. Unfortunately, Greeks feel let down by by rigged public tenders/competitions, monopolies and the sense that, without connections, applications are not processed in a fair manner. The results of the 2024 Eurobarometer survey showed that 54% of respondents believe that corruption is the reason they were unsuccessful in a public tender/competition. It should be noted that corruption is a key cause of brain drain and Greece is among the highest-ranking countries for anxiety and depression Europe-wide. The states with the lowest corruption perception among citizens are Denmark with 90 points and Finland with 88 points.

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

1. What action plan does it intend to follow in order to put pressure on the Government to improve the fight against corruption, since it does not seem to be a priority?
2. In its structured bilateral dialogue on the rule of law with the Government, will it examine the timeline for and the deployment of the necessary human and financial resources to ensure the proper implementation of the Code of Criminal Procedure?
3. How is it currently monitoring corruption in Greece?

Submitted: 23.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(12 May 2025)**

Respect for the rule of law and the fight against corruption are clear Commission priorities, reinforced in the 2024-2029 Political Guidelines. Through its annual Rule of Law Report ⁽¹⁾, the Commission carefully monitors developments in all Member States, including Greece, on matters pertaining to the anti-corruption framework amongst others. In the 2024 Rule of Law report on Greece ⁽²⁾, the Commission recommended that Greece continue efforts to establish a robust track record of prosecutions and final judgments in corruption cases, including high-level corruption. The prosecution services identified a number of challenges to investigate corruption and economic crime. The Commission will continue to monitor and assess developments in Greece during the 2025 rule of law reporting cycle.

The Commission has also been working to strengthen the EU legislative and policy framework against corruption. The package ⁽³⁾ it adopted in May 2023 includes a legislative proposal to modernise the current EU rules on corruption and provide law enforcement and prosecutors with the tools to fight corruption in all EU countries. The Commission is hopeful that the European Parliament and the Council will soon come to an ambitious agreement on this proposal that would be instrumental in strengthening the fight against corruption in each Member State and across the EU.

⁽¹⁾ 2024 Rule of law report — Communication and country chapters https://commission.europa.eu/publications/2024-rule-law-report-communication-and-country-chapters_en.

⁽²⁾ 2024 Rule of Law Report Country Chapter on the rule of law situation in Greece https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/6741f4b2-6a10-44ba-b40c-97a5a38e6827_en?filename=21_1_58062_coun_chap_greece_en.pdf.

⁽³⁾ Anti-corruption: Stronger rules to fight corruption https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_2516.