

EN

E-000865/2025

Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.4.2025)

1. The Commission strongly supports the work of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), as the EU's independent public prosecution office responsible for investigating, prosecuting and bringing to judgment crimes against the financial interests of the EU. It cooperates with the EPPO under the terms of their cooperation agreement¹. On the issue referred to by the Honourable Members, the EPPO has brought suspects of fraud before the competent Greek Court, as stated in its press release², and criminal proceedings are currently ongoing.

2. The Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) has performed several systems' audits in Greece over the years and, where needed, applied the appropriate financial corrections to protect EU funds. Under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), Member States' Paying Agencies must respect strict accreditation criteria established at EU level. Following DG AGRI's request, the Greek competent authority put the Greek Paying Agency under probation in September 2024 and drew up an action plan aimed at remedying the deficiencies identified in relation to compliance with the accreditation criteria by the Certification Body and DG AGRI. The action plan is currently being implemented by the Greek authorities. DG AGRI closely follows the implementation of the accreditation action plan and the risk to the EU funds under ongoing conformity enquiries.

¹ https://www.eppo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-07/2021.073_Agreement_EPPO_European_Commission_final.pdf

² <https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/media/news/greece-eppo-brings-100-suspects-to-court-eu29-million-fraud-involving-agricultural-funds>