

EN

E-002929/2025

Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.9.2025)

1. According to the relevant legislation¹, it is the responsibility of the competent authority in the Member State to issue, review and withdraw accreditation of paying agencies. On 10 September 2024, the competent authority has put OPEKEPE's accreditation under probation². The Greek authorities have recently informed the Commission about their intention to integrate OPEKEPE into the Independent Authority for Public Revenue (AADE). They are currently preparing the legal base paving the way for such a transition and have requested an extension of the probation period for the accreditation of OPEKEPE. The Commission has agreed to such an extension and continues to closely monitor the implementation of the remedial action plan, which the Greek authorities are amending to take into account the planned changes.

2. The Commission's past audits identified serious deficiencies in the management and control system of the OPEKEPE. On the one hand, these findings led to the decision to put OPEKEPE's accreditation on probation, while an action plan was put in place to remedy the deficiencies. On the other hand, the findings led to multiple conformity procedures launched by the Commission over the past years, resulting in financial corrections imposed upon Greece. In relation to the ongoing investigation by the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) into the work of the Paying Agency, the Commission cannot comment as EPPO is an independent body and its work is covered by the confidentiality of criminal investigations.

¹ Article 8(1) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

² Article 2(3) of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/128.