(English version)

Question for written answer E-000327/26
to the Commission
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)
(27 January 2026)

Subject: Receding rule of law and delays in the delivery of justice in Greece

According to the NGO 'World Justice Project' rule of law index for 2025, Greece ranks 48th globally among 143 countries and only 29th among 31 European countries, with a decline in performance in key pillars of the rule of law and evident tensions in the criminal and civil justice system, reflecting chronic delays in the delivery of justice and weaknesses in institutional guarantees ([1]) ([2]).

The indicators on the delivery of justice in the EU Justice Scoreboard are also revealing: Greece remains among the Member States with the longest case handling times, which affects citizens' confidence in the judicial system ([3]).

The systemic deviation from European standards raises questions about the effectiveness of reforms and the extent to which compliance with the values of the rule of law is monitored ([4]).

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission assess Greece's continued decline in international and EU rule of law indicators, in particular in terms of delays in the delivery of justice?

2. Does the Commission intend to strengthen targeted monitoring and binding recommendations on Member States such as Greece?

3. Which EU tools does the Commission consider crucial for a measurable improvement in the efficiency of the Greek justice system?

Submitted: 27.1.2026

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(10 April 2026)

The Commission monitors rule-of-law developments in all Member States, including Greece, through its annual Rule of Law Report. In the 2025 edition, it highlighted that the length of court proceedings still raises serious challenges and, although initial signals from the implementation of recent reforms are encouraging, it is still early to assess results ([1]).

Under the European Semester, the Commission noted that Greece's prolonged civil, criminal and administrative proceedings-among the EU's longest-create significant backlogs, hindering economic growth, business formation and investment. Following a recommendation of the Commission, the Council issued a recommendation to Greece to address this ([2]).

The Commission remains committed to support the Greek authorities in improving the efficiency of its justice system, using all the tools and instruments at its disposal, including the European Semester and the Rule of Law Report process. Greece's recovery and resilience plan includes measures to enhance justice quality and efficiency ([3]), including digital transformation of justice, training of judges, large infrastructure projects in court buildings and enhancement of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

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1 https://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/documents/Greece_3.pdf
2 https://greekreporter.com/2025/10/31/greece-rule-law-dropping-near-bottom-europe/
3 https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/eu-justice-scoreboard_el
4 https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/1212889/justice-system-scores-poorly-in-eu-rankings
([1]) https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/f2eb4e57-317a-4be4-8baa-b667c9f801d9_en?filename=12_1_63944_coun_chap_greece_en.pdf.
([2]) OJ C, C/2025/3982, 20.8.2025.
([3]) Council of the European Union (2021), Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Greece with Annex, https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-10152-2021-ADD-1/en/pdf.