

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000436/26
to the Commission
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)
(4 February 2026)**

Subject: New OPEKEPE organisational chart

Following the revelations regarding the unprecedented scandal of illegal agricultural subsidies, the Greek Government, in the context of the reorganisation of OPEKEPE, decided to transfer the organisation and its infrastructure to the national Independent Authority for Public Revenue (AADE).

According to Greek publications ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾, the new administrative structure of OPEKEPE, under the responsibility of AADE, has recently put in positions of responsibility within the organisation employees who are under investigation and included in the file of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) concerning the scandal, which has also been sent to the Greek Parliament.

More specifically, for the eight directors and eighteen department heads of the organisation in question, it does not appear that the necessary disciplinary or judicial procedures to clarify their possible responsibilities went ahead before their transfer to the new OPEKEPE organisational structure. On the contrary, in some cases, after comparing their old and new positions, it appears that their responsibilities were either maintained or even increased.

On the basis of the above, and given that the Commission, according to statements by its representative ⁽³⁾, is working closely with the Greek authorities on this exact issue:

1. Is the Commission aware of the specific practices and, if not, does it intend to request clarification from the Greek authorities or initiate control procedures?
2. How does the Commission assess the compatibility of the above practices with the principles of good administration, transparency and protection of the financial interests of the Union?

Submitted: 4.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(19 March 2026)**

1. The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) investigation referred to by the Honourable Member is still ongoing and the EPPO has not taken yet a decision about bringing the case before a competent national criminal court. As mentioned by the EPPO in its press release of 20 May 2025 related to this investigation: 'All persons concerned are presumed innocent until proven guilty in the competent Greek courts of law' ⁽¹⁾.

2. EU law requires paying agencies to respect specific accreditation criteria ⁽²⁾ in order to implement the Common Agricultural Policy. Among these criteria, the paying agency needs to respect specific human-resource standards and risk assessment standards, including measures to identify and manage fraud and any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the EU. The accreditation of the Greek paying agency is currently under probation and the Commission is specifically addressing the issues related to the compliance with the accreditation criteria under the ongoing action plan presented by the Greek authorities.

¹ https://www.in.gr/2026/01/08/economy/agro-in/aade-oi-ypalliloi-tou-opekepe-stis-nees-tous-theseis/#goog_rewarded.

² <https://www.thetoc.gr/oikonomia/best-of-Internet/mustiria-me-ton-neo-opekepe-entos-tis-aade-upalliloi-kollitoi-tou-frape-se-theseis-euthunis/>

³ https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2025/07/03/greek-farm-fund-scandal-to-impact-discharge-of-commissions-budget-in-parliament-says-lead-?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.epo.europa.eu/en/media/news/greece-epo-probes-opekepe-officials-over-alleged-organised-agricultural-subsidy-fraud>.

⁽²⁾ Annex I of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/127: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2022/127/oj/eng.