

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001381/26
to the Commission
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)
(7 April 2026)**

Subject: Preliminary audit report on the implementation of training, employment and work reintegration programmes in Greece

A preliminary audit report by DG EMPL ⁽¹⁾ on the implementation of training, employment and reintegration programmes in Greece identifies serious weaknesses in management and control systems, which increase the risk of distortions and fraud in public procurement.

Main findings ⁽²⁾:

Discriminatory/illegal tender criteria restricting competition and leading to a proposed financial correction of 25% (approximately EUR 1 950 000) with a possible extension to all relevant projects.

Unclear contract definitions creating risks of unequal treatment and non-comparable bids.

Inadequate procurement planning documentation limiting the participation of smaller specialised providers.

Insufficient assessment of beneficiary capacity and direct awards without independent data verification or comparative assessment of alternative entities.

Significant overestimation of objectives and budgets (deviations of up to 87% below target), unsubstantiated systematic use of maximum unit prices, inefficient use of resources.

Risk of low training effectiveness due to a disproportionate emphasis on e-learning, limited practical training and insufficient monitoring of actual participation and acquisition of skills.

The findings are systemic in nature, affecting multiple contracts beyond the sample, with an uncertain but potentially significant overall financial impact.

Violations of the principles of transparency, equal treatment and sound financial management have been documented, with an increased risk of financial corrections.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

1. Has the report been published in the national language, and if so, when? Are there other similar procedures pending for related projects in Greece?
2. How does it intend to improve control systems in order to detect distortions affecting the financial interests of the Union in a timely manner?

Submitted: 7.4.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(27 May 2026)**

The Commission acknowledges the concerns of the Honorable Member regarding the preliminary audit findings under reference DAC421EL3492. As standard practice, audit reports are confidential to safeguard procedural integrity, though the unauthorised disclosure referenced in the question is regrettable. The Greek-language version will be formally transmitted to the competent national authorities once translation is finalised, expected in the coming weeks.

The Commission's audit plan is determined through risk-based assessments and is regularly reviewed to ensure targeted oversight of EU funds. Planned audits are announced to the auditees concerned in due time.

Cohesion Policy funds operate under shared management, where Member States are responsible for establishing effective management and control systems. The Commission's role is supervisory, including through audits, financial corrections where irregularities are confirmed, and capacity-building support. Where serious deficiencies persist, the Commission can also interrupt or suspend payments until corrective measures are implemented ⁽¹⁾.

¹ Audit Reference Number: DAC421EL3492.

² For more details see the full document as leaked on a Greek news website: https://www.in.gr/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/in_preliminary-audit-findings.pdf
⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for

The Commission remains committed to safeguarding the EU's financial interests and will continue working closely with the Greek authorities to address the findings.
