

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001599/26
to the Commission
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)
(20 April 2026)**

Subject: Extraordinary attacks on the European Public Prosecutor's Office

Prompted by the OPEKEPE case, officials of the Greek Government and the ruling party are escalating public attacks against the European Public Prosecutor's Office, the Prosecutor General and the European Delegated Prosecutors.

The Minister of Health and Vice-President of New Democracy appears particularly disparaging, stating, for example: 'It is not a serious institution... It is a simple law of the Greek state. Tomorrow we vote and that's it', 'we don't owe any special respect to this institution... after all, the institution is too immature to exist in European states... if we allow such political games, our democracies will be blown to pieces', 'it is trying to destroy MPs... it has sent a case file to slander these people...', 'it decided to send ridiculous case files, causing major political issues... If it continues to ignore the political implications of its actions, the institution will fail', 'it is obvious that something else is at play... there is no way that any of them should be charged', 'the files that have come to Parliament [...] are nonsense. Shame on the European Public Prosecutor's Office for sending them', 'Ms Papandreou sending this specific case file is an attack on Democracy', '[Ms Papandreou] is blackmailing for the renewal of her term', 'it is a case file that is legally non-existent'.⁽¹⁾

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission intend to shield the institution and its officials effectively from such extraordinary attacks?
2. How does the Commission intend to support the European Public Prosecutor's Office at staff level?

Submitted: 20.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(19 June 2026)**

The Commission fully supports the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), which is tasked with the crucial mission of investigating and prosecuting crimes affecting the EU's financial interests.

The EPPO is bound by the principle of rule of law in all its activities and is required to conduct its investigations impartially, in full respect of fundamental rights enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The Commission values and respects the independence of the EPPO from all EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies as well as the Member States, and recalls that the EPPO should be able to investigate all crimes affecting the EU budget, regardless of who committed them.

In light of the above, the Commission therefore is always in favour of a respectful exchange with and about the EPPO, including as regards public authorities of the Member States, as they might otherwise unduly undermine the EPPO's legitimacy and the trust of citizens in it. The Commission stands ready to engage with the national authorities to reiterate its firm support to the EPPO and its activities as outlined above.

¹ <https://www.in.gr/2026/04/16/politics/politiki-grammateia/den-einai-kanenas-sovaros-thesmos-i-eyropaiki-eisaggelia-gia-ton-georgiadi-nea-epithesi-kata-tis-papandreou/>, <https://thepressproject.gr/greek-health-minister-calls-eu-prosecutors-office-immature-and-suggests-abolishing-it/>, <https://www.tovima.com/politics/greek-minister-attacks-eppo-draws-sharp-rebuke-from-judges/>.