(English version)

Question for written answer E-002023/26
to the Commission
Maria Zacharia (NI)
(13 May 2026)

Subject: Signs of distortion and concentration in the Greek energy market and the need to verify whether practices are at odds with EU law

The Greek electricity market is characterised by persistently high prices for households, businesses and agricultural holdings and there have been serious allegations of limited actual competition, significant market concentration and costs being passed on to consumers. Meanwhile, production cuts have also been reported, along with electricity exports during hours when prices are very low or negative, and cost socialisation. Economic benefits seem to be concentrated in the hands of a limited number of powerful players. The available information paints a picture of an oligopoly characterised by excessive profits and heavy burdens on consumers and industry, notably a potential strategy of withholding power and distorting prices in the wholesale market.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it intend to immediately ask the Greek authorities, the national Regulatory Authority for Energy, Waste and Water and ACER for complete information on pricing, profit margins, production cuts, cross-border flows/exports during hours when prices are very low or negative, financing of relevant deficits through public funds or bill charges?

2. Does it intend to assess, in the light of competition rules, the integrity and transparency of the wholesale energy market, the application of REMIT, whether the functioning of the Greek market shows signs of distortion, manipulation or other practices that are at odds with EU law?

3. If the above information provides compelling evidence, does the Commission intend to request or initiate, within its remit and in cooperation with ACER and the competent authorities, appropriate audit or investigative procedures?

Submitted: 14.5.2026

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(9 July 2026)

The Commission plays a critical role in overseeing the EU's internal electricity market, including through monitoring the implementation of EU electricity legislation. In case of non-compliance, the Commission may take legal action against the Member State concerned.

At this stage, the Commission has not taken any legal action against Greece for non-compliance with EU electricity legislation and does not have any indications pointing to any potential non-compliance. Hence, the Commission does not intend to request any information from the Greek authorities on that matter.

The Commission notes that the Hellenic Competition Commission (HCC) is investigating the Greek electricity sector under EU and national competition rules.

As the HCC is well placed to assess these issues, the Commission does not intend to open an investigation, in line with the case allocation rules of the European Competition Network ([1]).

The Commission also notes that regulation (EU) 1227/2011 on Wholesale Energy Market Integrity and Transparency ('REMIT') ([2]) is enforced at national level.

Under REMIT, only the national regulatory authorities ('NRAs') are competent in taking enforcement measures against market participants for potential market abuse, except for cases with cross-border elements.

In those cases, the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators ('ACER') has specific investigatory powers complementing those of NRAs.

([1]) Commission Notice on cooperation within the Network of Competition Authorities, *OJ C 101, 27.4.2004*, paras 5-8: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=oj:JOC_2004_101_R_0043_01.

([2]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/1227/oj/eng.