

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002087/26
to the Commission
Nikolas Farantouris (S&D)
(20 May 2026)

Subject: Recent visit of the Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection to Greece

According to the official briefing ⁽¹⁾ on the recent visit of the Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection, Michael McGrath, to Greece, the meetings with government officials reportedly discussed issues related to judicial reforms, the selection of the leadership of the higher courts, the new judicial charter, the acceleration of the delivery of justice, the digital transformation of the courts, the fight against corruption, transparency in lobbying and public procurement, media freedom, the protection of journalists, participatory lawmaking and the functioning of civil society. However, it is not clear whether specific issues that continue to raise serious concerns about the quality of the rule of law in Greece were raised and discussed.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. Were the developments surrounding the wiretapping scandal, concerns about the protection of personal data and the independence of the oversight authorities and the public complaints by Bar Associations ⁽²⁾ and lawyers regarding the functioning of the Government-appointed leadership of the Supreme Court of Greece discussed?
2. Have issues concerning the direct award of public contracts, complaints about opacity and the apparent corruption in the management of funds been brought to the attention of the Commissioner?
3. Will the upcoming report on the rule of law in Greece include the strong concerns and disquiet expressed by bodies and organisations in Greece, some of which met with the Commissioner? ⁽³⁾

Submitted: 20.5.2026

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(27 July 2026)

The Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection was on an official visit to Greece on 12 May 2026.

The Commissioner met with a broad range of stakeholders-including government representatives, members of the Greek Parliament, independent authorities and civil society organisations.

Hearing firsthand perspectives from different stakeholders offered a comprehensive overview of the rule of law situation in the country, both on the progress made and the remaining challenges.

Stakeholders brought to the Commissioner's attention different topics, including the appointments to the leadership of the highest courts, developments surrounding the alleged use of spyware, the independence and effective functioning of independent authorities, public procurement, civic space and the upcoming constitutional revision.

The information provided is among the different elements of information taken into consideration for the Commission's assessment for the 2026 Rule of Law Report, adopted on 17 July 2026 ⁽¹⁾.

The 2026 Rule of Law Report, like the previous Reports, is based on an established methodology used by the Commission which is public and applies to all chapters of the Rule of Law Report equally.

It includes a careful analysis of the situation in each Member State, including Greece, taking into account different information provided by a broad variety of sources, including national authorities, relevant civil society organisations and international institutions. Ultimately, the Report reflects the Commission's own assessment.

¹ <https://www.primeminister.gr/2026/05/12/38481>

² <https://olomeleia.gr/el/content/syntonistiki-epitropi-i-pliris-kai-endelehis-ereyna-olon-ton-ypotheseon-kai-idios-ton>, <https://www.dsa.gr/%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%B1%CE%BA%CE%BF%CE%B9%CE%BD%CF%8E%CF%83%CE%B5%CE%B9%CF%82/anakoinoseis/psifisma-ektacto-ds-dsa-gia-tis-ypoklopes-2942026-syntentexi-typov-ton>.

³ <https://vouliwatch.gr/actions/article/to-vouliwatch-se-synantisi-me-to-symvoylio-tis-eyropis-9c21dca4-2712>.

(¹) https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/annual-rule-law-cycle/2026-rule-law-report_en.