

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002770/26
to the Commission
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)
(3 July 2026)**

Subject: Institutional shortcomings in addressing the high prices of everyday essentials in Greece

According to reports, the Greek Government is calling a meeting with big market players to bring down prices on essential items. This development raises serious questions about the effectiveness of institutional market control mechanisms, especially when consumer protection appears to depend on informal government negotiations with powerful economic operators. EU competition law, notably Articles 101 and 102 TFEU, prohibits concerted practices and the abuse of a dominant position. In addition, transparency and the possibility of effective price comparison are requirements of the consumer protection framework.

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

1. Is it monitoring whether there is sufficient competition in the Greek essential goods market or whether instead it shows signs of overconcentration and unjustified price increases?
2. Does it consider a policy of informal pricing agreements between the Government and big businesses to be compatible with EU law?
3. Does it intend to ask the Greek authorities for proof of the effectiveness of market controls and consumer protection?

Submitted: 3.7.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera on behalf of the European Commission
(21 August 2026)**

The Commission and the competition authorities of the Member States apply EU competition rules in close cooperation within the European Competition Network, in compliance with the principles of subsidiarity and procedural autonomy.

In principle, the Greek authorities are well placed to monitor the Greek food and groceries market whereas the Commission is competent to investigate practices in that sector which affect several Member States, as it did for instance for the cartel on food delivery services ⁽¹⁾ and market partitioning by Mondelez in the chocolate, biscuits and coffee sectors ⁽²⁾.

The Commission closely monitors the evolution of consumer goods prices across Member States, as well as matters that may affect consumer protection.

In this context, it may, on its own initiative or acting on the basis of complaints by interested third parties or of market information, examine measures that risk undermining the functioning of the internal market or the uniform application of EU competition rules.

A Member State may convene operators to discuss market developments to the extent that it does not infringe the obligation of sincere cooperation of Member States under Article 4(3) of the Treaty on European Union, in conjunction with the prohibition of anti-competitive agreements under Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. For instance, such discussions should not lead to agreements on prices between operators.

If appropriate, the Commission may confer with the Greek authorities regarding the measures they plan to adopt.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1356.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2727.