

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001904/25
to the Commission
Maria Zacharia (NI)
(13 May 2025)**

Subject: Greece's failure to apply the directives on a common system for VAT rates as low as zero on essential items such as food, medicines, pharmaceuticals, clothing and housing

In a letter of formal notice sent by the Commission in January 2025 to the Greek Government, it was found that Greece had failed to transpose Directive (EU) 2020/285 amending Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax as regards the special scheme for small enterprises, which allows businesses with a turnover below EUR 85 000 per year to pay value added tax rates as low as zero, as well as Council Directive (EU) 2022/542 of 5 April 2022 amending Directives 2006/112/EC and (EU) 2020/285 as regards rates of value added tax, which allows the levying of VAT rates as low as zero on essential items such as food, medicine and pharmaceuticals, the construction and repair of social housing, children's clothing, etc. Greece was granted a period of two months to complete the transposition.

It should be noted that the issue was never raised with the social partners, although Eurostat's recent data shows Greece to be the fourth poorest country in Europe, with 26% of the population (2.4 million) living in households at risk of at least one of the following: poverty, severe material and social deprivation and/or low work intensity.

Given that four months have passed without any action having been taken, and that the standard of living of Greeks is deteriorating every day, what action will the Commission take?

Submitted: 13.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(13 June 2025)**

The Commission attaches great importance to the timely and correct transposition of EU law.

Greece has not transposed the provisions of: (i) Council Directive (EU) 2020/285 of 18 February 2020 ⁽¹⁾ which exempts small enterprises from value-added tax (VAT), alleviates their VAT compliance obligations and makes it easier to trade within the internal market, and (ii) Council Directive (EU) 2022/542 of 5 April 2022 ⁽²⁾ which allows for a wider use of reduced rates, including the use of zero rates for essential products such as food, pharmaceuticals and products intended for medical use. Both directives had to be transposed into national law by 31 December 2024.

Therefore, the Commission opened infringement procedures ⁽³⁾ against Greece by sending letters of formal notice on 31 January 2025. Greece had to respond, complete its transposition and notify the measures to the Commission by 31 March 2025.

Greece did not reply to the letters of formal notice or notify transposition measures for the directives. The Commission is currently envisaging the next step in the infringement procedures.

⁽¹⁾ Council Directive (EU) 2020/285 of 18 February 2020 amending Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax as regards the special scheme for small enterprises.

⁽²⁾ Council Directive (EU) 2022/542 of 5 April 2022 amending Directives 2006/112/EC and 2020/285 as regards rates of value added tax.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/el/inf_25_273.