

Question for written answer E-006452/2014
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Illegal appropriation by Government and banks of EU aid and subsidies to Greek farmer and stockbreeders

The inability of Greek farmers and stockbreeders impoverished by the Memorandum to pay extortionate taxes and service their bank loans has prompted the Greek Government and the banks unlawfully to appropriate EU aid and subsidies paid into their accounts by the agency responsible, these amounts being untouchable under EU law.

Under the EU legislation currently applicable (Regulations 1782/2003, 1792/2003, 795/2004, etc.), EU grants and subsidies may, under no circumstances whatsoever, be appropriated in this manner.

However, according to a written answer from the minister responsible to the Greek Parliament of November 2013 it is, under Greek legislation (Decree-Law 356/1974, Article 982(e) of the Civil Code and Law 4161/2013), perfectly admissible for the Greek Government to appropriate the above-mentioned EU grants and subsidies and, under certain terms and conditions, for the banks to do the same.

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission aware of the thousands of cases of unlawful appropriation of EU aid and subsidies, which have sparked mass protests and demonstrations by Greek farmers and stockbreeders?
2. What action will it take and when to end the unlawful appropriation of these funds and ensure compliance with EU law, under which EU aid and subsidies may, under no circumstances whatsoever, be appropriated in this manner?