

**Question for written answer E-000101/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Interference by the Commission in the Greek presidential elections

Following the decision to bring forward the date of the Greek Presidential elections, Premier Samaras nominated ex-Minister and ex-European Commissioner Dimas for the Presidency. As a result of this announcement, the risk of possible early political elections and the fact that the Syriza party is topping all the polls, the Athens stock exchange closed with a fall of 12 %.

Commission spokeswoman Breidhardt then expressed support for candidate Dimas (a fervent pro-European), followed shortly afterwards by Commission President Juncker, who declared in the press that the Greek people should make no mistake when voting and it would not be good to have an extremist party in power. Commissioner Moscovici also visited Greece, applauding the government reforms and expressing support for candidate Dimas.

Public statements and behaviour of this kind constitute unacceptable political interference in Greek democratic life.

In the light of the above, the Commission is asked the following questions:

1. In consideration of Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty of the European Union, on what provision of that Treaty does the Commission base its interference in the political life of a Member State by seeking to influence its choices?
2. In this specific case, what is the general interest of the Union which the Commission is required to promote under Article 17 of the Treaty?