

**Question for written answer E-004125/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Cartelised goods and services in Greece

The Commission, together with the national competition authorities, directly enforces EU competition rules with a view to making EU markets work better by ensuring that all companies compete equally and fairly on the basis of their merits.

After Greece's deepest ever recession hit five years ago, salaries and pensions have more than halved, and yet consumer prices continue to increase. The reason behind this is that many sectors of the Greek economy are cartelised.

Supermarket prices are cartelised, for example. In 2014, the head of the Greek Competition Commission, Panayiotis Adamopoulos, was arrested for allegedly soliciting a EUR 2.5 million bribe from a dairy company, Megval, which is under investigation for colluding to fix prices with competitors.

Furthermore, the road toll system is extortionate and corrupt, with drivers expected to pay for stretches of road that have yet to be built. Once built, private contractors will recuperate the construction costs from tolls – costs already covered by the Greek State and the cohesion fund.

The Commission Task Force established by President Barroso was sent to Greece to help the government to deal with the crisis. With regard to tackling cartels, however, it seems that they have accomplished little, if anything at all.

What is the Commission's strategy for Greece, within the scope of DG Competition, to enforce rules that aim to restore a fair and competitive market, thereby reducing consumer prices?