

**Question for written answer E-006619/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Law on the control of capital in Greece - consequences for regional and local government

Owing to 'extremely urgent unforeseen needs' Greece has issued a 'capital control' order calling for the cash reserves held by local government units (counties, districts, and towns) to be transferred to the national central bank. The order can be said to infringe the European Charter of Local Self-Government to the extent that local authorities are being deprived of the means, and indirectly of their power and their right, to carry out tasks within their prescribed sphere of responsibility. Local democracy is thus being undermined. EU spending cuts have already made themselves felt in a different way, albeit less severely, by curtailing the resources and rights of local authorities in other Member States hit by the crisis. Although regulating the organisation of their regional and local tiers of government is a matter for Member States, the reasons for the processes described above lie in EU decisions.

Does the Commission have any views on the above-mentioned Greek government order?

What kind of influence can the Commission bring to bear on the processes whereby the rights of local and regional authorities are being reduced in Greece and other Member States affected by the crisis, bearing in mind that these processes have been brought about by the implementation of Commission decisions and are serving to lower the democratic standards achieved to date?