

Question for written answer P-000680/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Illegal seizure by the Greek government, social security funds and banks of subsidies and aid paid to Greek farmers under the CAP

Greek farmers who have been reduced to poverty under the Memorandum are unable to repay their huge taxes and high social security contributions or service their loans at extortionate rates of interest. As a result, tax offices, pension funds and banks are illegally seizing their Community subsidies and aid as soon as these are deposited by the Payment and Control Agency for Guidance and Guarantee Community Aid (OPEKEPE) in the bank accounts of these farmer beneficiaries.

Already in our earlier question of 29/8/2014 we had denounced the 'illegal appropriation by (the Greek) Government and banks of EU aid and subsidies to Greek farmers and stockbreeders', noting that '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.' Indeed, Article 11 of Regulation No. 1290/2005 provides for the 'payment in full to beneficiaries', noting in particular that 'payments relating to the financing' of the Common Agricultural Policy 'or to amounts corresponding to the public financial contribution under the rural development programmes shall be disbursed in full to the beneficiaries.'

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

- What measures will it take to ensure implementation of the above EU legislation which provides that aid and subsidies paid to Greek farmers under the Common Agricultural Policy may not be seized?
- What measures will it take to ensure that the subsidies illegally seized in breach of EU law are returned to Greek farmers?