

**Question for written answer Z-000020/2014
to the European Central Bank
Rule 131
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Subject: Property tax in Greece

The troika, of which the European Central Bank is a member, has ordered the Greek Government to introduce a permanent property tax (ENFIA), calculated on the basis of official property values which are, however, generally acknowledged as being well above actual market prices. As a result, property owners are unable to afford what is effectively a tax on a non-existent asset. Furthermore, alignment of official values with actual prices, originally scheduled for 2012, has now been postponed until 2016 (to be implemented in January 2017).

The excessive and unfair nature of this tax is effectively undermining the right to property ownership, thereby infringing Article 17(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

In view of this:

1. What purpose does the European Central Bank consider is served by failure to align official property values with actual prices?
2. How can the Greek economy be expected to recover if property taxes are unfair and disproportionate?
3. What measures will it take to ensure that the right to property ownership is not infringed by Greek property tax?