

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4294/08

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to the Commission

Subject: The Siemens case - European control mechanism to fight corruption

On 14 April 2005 the Council adopted a resolution on a comprehensive EU policy against corruption in which it declared its determination to combat corruption in the EU, calling on both Member States and on the Commission to take the relevant measures to fight corruption. The future development of the EU-wide monitoring mechanism in this field was restricted to monitoring the implementation of EU acts in fighting corruption. The Commission had announced its preference for the creation of an EU-wide monitoring mechanism which would also evaluate implementation by Member States of other international acts for fighting corruption. The latest report by the OECD's Transparency International (June 2008) lists a number of very serious failures by the Greek government as regards the absence of control mechanisms to prevent corruption, with special reference to the Siemens scandal. This report identifies a series of omissions, delays, loopholes in the legislation, a lack of coordination between the relevant authorities and serious delays in judicial procedures. The OECD had already made recommendations in this connection to the Greek authorities involved as early as 2005. However, as the Siemens scandal has shown, the Greek authorities have ignored them, and as a result Greece has over the last few years failed to report a single case to international organisations, has failed to clear up a single case of corruption and/or bribery and has, of course, failed to impose any sanctions on any legal or natural person.

Bearing in mind the above and also that Siemens appears to be involved in corruption scandals in a number of European and third countries, will the Commission say:

1. How does it view the implementation by the Member States of EU acts to fight corruption since the relevant Resolution and the OECD report were issued?
2. Given the increase in the scale and symptoms of corruption in Member States, does it believe that it should take Initiatives forthwith to establish a common European mechanism to monitor and, above all, evaluate measures taken by Member States with the aim of creating an effective Community policy to fight corruption?
3. Which measures does it intend to take so as to prevail upon the Greek government to honour its commitments to control corruption and bribery in Greece which have, over the last few years, assumed particularly alarming dimensions and which, inter alia, distort healthy competition in public procurement procedures?