

**Question for written answer E-011356/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Vladko Todorov Panayotov (ALDE)

Subject: Plan for Special Economic Areas

I understand that the Greek Ministry of Development is considering establishing Special Economic Areas with a low VAT rate and a special accelerated process for issuing permits. This is being done as part of efforts to tackle the economic crisis with a view to developing new competitive tools and creating jobs, in particular in northern Greece and in the Eastern Macedonia and Thrace region, which is and will remain a convergence region. This will also benefit cross-border trade and the development of the regions bordering Bulgaria.

Has such a plan been communicated to the Commission? Can the Task Force for Greece help support such an initiative? Under what conditions could such a plan be approved?