Question for written answer E-011862/2011
to the Commission
Rule 117
Michail Tremopoulos (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Transparency International report: corruption contributed to the euro crisis

The recently published annual report by Transparency International[1] takes the view that corruption contributed to the euro crisis and draws attention to the low ranking held by Italy and Greece.

According to the report, the economic problems affecting the euro zone have arisen 'partly because of public authorities' failure to tackle the bribery and tax evasion that are key drivers of debt crisis'.

According to the index used by the organisation, which ranges from 0 (highly corrupt) to 10, Italy is 'low-scoring' with 3.9, while Greece scores 3.4. These two countries are ranked 69th and 80th respectively at world level, and 27th and 29th at European level.

France and Germany, in whom many people are placing their hopes for a solution to the euro zone problems, are ranked 25th and 14th respectively at world level.

Transparency is also a key issue in regional policy and regional funding, and in 2010 Parliament adopted the proposals set out in the Tremopoulos report 2009/2232(INI)[2] on this subject by a large majority.

Can the Commission answer the following questions:

- Does it agree with the conclusions of the Transparency International report that corruption contributed to the debt crisis in Europe?

- If so, what initiatives is it prepared to take to eradicate corruption and tax evasion, which are key drivers of the crisis?

- What initiatives will it take to implement the proposals made by the European Parliament and set out in the Tremopoulos report?

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1 http://cpi.transparency.org/cpi2011/
2 http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/summary.do?id=1114577&t=d