

**Question for written answer E-000199/2012
to the Commission
Rule 117
Michail Tremopoulos (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Greek economic adjustment programme (also) causing environmental setbacks

A joint statement¹ by the international, European and Greek sections of the environmental organisation WWF to the EU and the IMF emphasises that the unprecedented social crisis resulting from the economic adjustment programme in Greece is now causing significant environmental setbacks. In letters sent to the Commission President, Manuel Barroso, and International Monetary Fund Managing Director, Christine Lagarde, the WWF emphasises that the economic adjustment programme for Greece is wiping out the limited but significant progress made in environmental policy and legislation in Greece over the last few years. At the same time, there is a threat here of the European environmental *acquis* being undermined, no longer by an undisciplined Greek State, but by the EU itself. The following are, in brief, the most important repercussions to date, as noted by the WWF:

- a) the scrapping of the 'Green Fund' in the State budget;
- b) the undermining of the system of environmental permits for works and activities;
- c) the legalisation of illegal developments in protected areas;
- d) the uncontrolled sale of public lands;
- e) the uncontrolled downsizing or dismantling of public environmental services; and
- f) the support for dirty energy sources.

Will the Commission say:

1. How will it ensure, as it should, that the EU Treaties are implemented, especially in respect of environmental sustainability and environmental protection?
2. Does it intend to review the terms of the agreement to support the Greek economy so that, it offers green and essentially viable solutions that respect both environmental and human needs?

¹ http://www.wwf.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=847%3Awwf-&catid=70%3A2008-09-16-12-10-46&Itemid=90