

**Question for written answer E-014284/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Patricia van der Kammen (NI) and Lucas Hartong (NI)

Subject: Non-compliance with EU rules by Greece goes unpunished (or virtually so)

It is evident from Commissioner Ciolos's answer to questions from Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control¹ that Greece can continue to turn a blind eye to the rules on agricultural subsidies with scarcely any punishment at all. Greece was granted a deferral on the reimbursement of EUR 504 million in improperly awarded agricultural subsidies, on condition that it took action to remedy the deficiencies in its Land Parcel Identification System.

Following the finding in an audit that these deficiencies have not been remedied, Greece is only being 'punished' with a EUR 25 million reduction in the amount of its reimbursement sum that it may defer.

1. Is the Commission aware that Greece is still failing to comply with the eligibility rules for agricultural subsidies¹?
2. Does the Commission believe that the symbolic punishment of reducing the deferral by EUR 25 million will encourage the Greeks to actually follow the rules from now on?
3. Why does the Commission not simply reduce the amount of agricultural and other subsidies that Greece receives from the EU by the EUR 504 million overpaid?
4. Does the Commission agree with the Dutch Party for Freedom (PVV) that the continued failure of some Member States to comply with subsidy rules represents a serious insult to taxpayers, specifically those of the net contributor Member States who, after all, generated that money? If not, how would the Commission describe it?
5. Has the Commission now finally come to the conclusion that control over agricultural policy, including the appurtenant funding, must be returned to the Member States? If not, why not?

¹

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/document/activities/cont/201312/20131216ATT76142/20131216ATT76142EN.pdf>