

**Question for written answer E-001216/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Failure by European Commission to monitor cases of corruption and bribery which have exacerbated Greece's debt

During its investigation of the corruption scandal surrounding Greek armaments programmes, the Greek judicial system uncovered serious evidence that Greek officers had received large bribes from German companies^{1,2} via offshore companies. According to a report by the SIPRI,³ Greece bought more German armaments than any other country over the five years from 2007 to 2011 (13% of German exports of large conventional weapons). The Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance complained in the European Parliament that German and French arms were being sold to Greece in breach of the European Code of Conduct on arms exports.^{4,5} According to articles in the press, the defence filed by the former Deputy Director General for Armaments implicates officers of Dresdner Bank who helped him launder the bribes.⁶ These bank officers have been implicated in other cases of money laundering, such as the Siemens case.⁷ Corruption in connection with armaments programmes has seriously exacerbated Greece's debt; over EUR 218 billion have been spent on armaments since 1974. In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Does it intend to investigate cases of bribery via offshore companies and whether they have contributed to the rise in Greece's public debt?
2. Does it consider that the European framework governing the operation of European banks in Greece is adequate, especially with regard to tax evasion and money laundering?
3. How is the 'pooling and sharing' of defence systems progressing within the framework of the European Defence and Security Policy? Are those who say that progress is extremely slow right?
4. Has the Commission prepared an anti-corruption report in order to periodically assess efforts by Member States?⁸ Has the Commission negotiated its participation in the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)?
5. Has it adopted the measures proposed in the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery?⁹

¹ <http://www.tovima.gr/society/article/?aid=556040>.

² <http://www.protothema.gr/politics/article/345749/multi-marturas-denei-tis-mizes-sta-exoplistika/>.

³ <http://www.sipri.org/>.

⁴ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bWQ%2bE-2010-2286%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEL&language=EL>.

⁵ <http://tvxs.gr/news/egrapsan-eipan/afopliste-toys-mizadoroys-eksopliste-ti-logiki-toy-mixali-tremopoyloy>

⁶ <http://www.protothema.gr/greece/article/340538/panikos-sti-misi-diaploki-tis-horas/>.

⁷ <http://www.enet.gr/?i=news.el.article&id=172306>.

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<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/doc/srv?l=EL&t=PDF&gc=true&sc=false&f=ST%2011237%202011%20INIT&r=http%3A%2F%2Fregister.consilium.europa.eu%2Fpd%2F1%2F11%2Fst11237.el11.pdf>.

⁹ <http://www.oecd.org/corruption/oecdantibriberyconvention.htm>.