

**Question for written answer E-003171/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Review of Eurostat opinion

Following a question from Elstat, Eurostat reached the conclusion (Ref.Ares[2018]2256751-27.4.2018) that the body for supplementary pensions, health and welfare for Greek media employees (United Organisation of Supplementary Pension and Health Care Insurance of Journalists - EDOEAP) should be classified within the general government sector. However, the data evaluated by Eurostat are old, as the Greek authorities provided data up until the year 2016, when the new way of financing the Fund had not yet been determined. Today, under Law 4498/2017, EDOEAP revenue consists of the contributions from employers/employees which were agreed prior to the Greek Government legislation coming into force. Exactly the same applies to the 2% levy on the turnover of mass media undertakings, which was also agreed as an employer contribution.

Furthermore, bearing in mind that the classification of EDOEAP as a general government body will grant governments the right to appoint the organisation's management, thus offering the executive an opportunity to use the Fund as a means of limiting the independence of the Press,

can the Commission say:

Can Eurostat's opinion be reviewed in light of the new data?