

**Question for written answer E-000287/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Further dramatic increase in Greek public debt

Between 2010 and 2018, Greece implemented three Memorandums of Understanding designed by the Troika of the Lenders (EU, ECB, IMF), which involved tough austerity measures and social cuts, privatisations, sudden and extensive changes to the labour market and unpopular reforms, with the sole aim of reducing public debt and increasing sustainability.

However, overall government debt as a percentage of GDP is rising. With the first memorandum, debt rose from 130.7% to 172.1% of GDP. Following the introduction of Public Sector Involvement (PSI) under the second memorandum, the debt went up from 138.4% to 181% in the fourth quarter of 2014. With the third memorandum, the Greek public debt continued to increase and, from 171.5% in 2015, it rose to 182.2% in the third quarter of 2018, a record for the European Union and the highest level in the history of modern Greece.

The third memorandum was completed with solemn declarations by Greek Government and the EU that the Greek public debt is now viable and sustainable.

How can the Commission consider the economic policies imposed by the Troika on the Greek Government to have been successful, given the unrelenting rise in public debt over the last eight years?