Question for written answer E-002320/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Primary surplus and budgetary implications of government announcements

Recently, the Governor of the Bank of Greece reiterated the need to reduce the primary surplus target for Greece, describing the target of 3.5% of GDP for 2019 as ‘a serious challenge for the new government’ of Kyriakos Mitsotakis[1].

Given that, at the last meeting of the eurozone finance ministers, the heads of the Institutions stated that maintaining the level of the primary surplus [2] was a basic precondition linked to the objective of Greek debt relief that had been agreed, will the Commission say:

– How does it assess the implications for the implementation of the 2019 state budget and the preparations for the 2020 budget resulting from the implementation of the new Greek government's commitments to reduce the corporate tax rate and tax on dividends, lower the import tax rate for individuals and reduce VAT, inter alia, in conjunction with a commitment to maintain the current tax-free limit in Greece?

– Is it considering revising the commitments for a primary surplus of 3.5% by 2022 in order to leave more budgetary leeway to enable the Greek economy to grow more strongly? If so, when and under what conditions will it do so?

1 https://www.kathimerini.gr/1033824/article/proswpa/synentey3eis/giannhs-stoyrnaras-sthn-k-epitaxynsh-metarry8misewn-gia-meiwsh-pleonasmatwn
2 https://www.tovima.gr/2019/07/09/finance/skotseziko-ntous-apo-eurogroup-teixos-sti-meiosi-pleonasmaton-parathyro-sto-aforologito/