

**Question for written answer E-002366/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Independence of national control mechanisms for financial crime

In recent years, tax evasion and tax fraud scandals, uncovered mainly by independent journalists and organisations, have highlighted the inability both of the Commission and the respective national authorities to effectively combat these phenomena. The cost to state budgets and European taxpayers amounts to billions of euros.

It was a positive development that, recently, following the Cum-Ex scandal that I highlighted in the European Parliament, additional measures were adopted to combat financial and tax crime.

Nevertheless, some Member States are continuing to undermine the independent structures and authorities combating financial crime: in Greece, for instance, the Special Secretariat of the Financial and Economic Crime Unit (SDOE) was very recently (July 2019) abolished and the General Secretariat for IT Systems transferred from the Ministry of Finance.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

What additional measures will it take at European level to combat tax fraud and tax evasion? Is there a relevant strategy and action plan?

How does it intend to support the independence of national control mechanisms, especially given that attempts are being made by some Member States to undermine or abolish them?

What are the relevant cooperation networks with national governments in this area and what is its assessment of them?