

**Question for written answer E-003361/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Complaint about prohibited state aid to the Organisation of Urban Transportation of Thessaloniki (OASTH)

For decades, through successive contracts, Thessaloniki's urban bus service was run as a monopoly by OASTH, a private legal entity composed of private transport operators which received excessive subsidies from the Greek state.

The most recent such contract, covering the period from 1.1.2001 to 31.12.2009, was ratified by law and subsequently extended indefinitely in 2008 before its expiry and before Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 entered into force, through a legislative initiative of the then government.

By Law 4482/2017, OASTH was taken over by the Greek state, the above contract was terminated and OASTH was put into special liquidation in order to comply with EU law. Since then, the OASTH Board of Directors has acted as the liquidator of this legal entity.

On 12.6.2019 the OASTH liquidators at that time lodged a complaint with the Commission regarding prohibited state aid amounting to over EUR 125 million, which had been received by the private shareholders of OASTH between 1.1.2010 and 25.7.2017, the date of entry into force of Law No 4482/2017.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. What stage has the investigation into the complaint reached?
2. What steps will it take to speed up its investigation?