

**Question for written answer E-003559/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Unemployment rates in Greece for 2020

According to a recent announcement by the Commission <sup>1</sup>, 'the unemployment rate according to the Commission 2020 spring forecast is projected at around 20%, up from 17.3% in 2019, erasing the gains from the previous three years.'

The data of the 'ERGANI' IT system for the period January-May 2020 also show a rapid deterioration in the labour market: This year marks the worst five-month period from January-May and the worst May since 2001, when the relevant data began to be recorded by 'ERGANI' <sup>2</sup>.

However, the Greek Minister of Labour announced an unemployment rate of 14.4% for March 2020 and spoke of a 'triple optimistic signal from the labour market', which is contrary to Commission <sup>3</sup> and OECD <sup>4</sup> estimates.

Taking into account the negative experience of 'Greek statistics' in the period 2008-2009, which paved the way for the bankruptcy of Greece and the 'Memoranda', will the Commission say:

1. How does it assess the course of the recession and unemployment in Greece in 2020?
2. How does it view the discrepancy between its estimates and the Greek government's estimates?

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2020/EN/COM-2020-529-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.tovima.gr/2020/06/11/finance/h-xeiroteri-epidosi-apo-to-2001-stin-apasxolisi/>,  
<https://www.skai.gr/news/finance/ergani-259233-ligoteres-nees-theseis-apasxolisis-sto-a-pentamino-tou-2020>

<sup>3</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0546&qid=1591966533439&from=EN>

<sup>4</sup> <https://left.gr/news/dyo-senaria-oosa-gia-yfesi-apo-8-os-98-stin-ellada>