

**Question for written answer E-006847/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Omission of defence expenditure from the calculation of Greece's budget deficit

In spite of public protests and a plea by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis to impose an embargo on exports of European weapons to Turkey, the European Union failed to take any action at the Brussels summit on 10 December.

As a consequence, Turkey's already excessive range of weapons is continuing to grow, with the arrival of the first Turkish aircraft carrier from Spain and state-of-the-art offensive submarines from Germany.

Despite Greece's exorbitant public debt and large fiscal deficit resulting from the pandemic, it has been forced to considerably increase its defence spending in the 2021 State budget and plan for similar increases in the future.

In the light of this:

1. Does the Commission acknowledge the heavy financial burden that the sustained over-equipping of Turkey by Member States such as Germany and Spain is having on Greece?
2. After the pandemic, will the Commission provide any additional budget to enable Greece to address the problem of national sovereignty and security created by Member States such as Germany and Spain through their export of weapons to Turkey?
3. Does the Commission not consider it fair to exclude the increased defence expenditure from the calculation of Greece's budget deficit until such a time as other Member States impose an arms embargo on Turkey the aggressor?