

**Question for written answer E-004357/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Gunnar Beck (ID)**

**Subject:** Reductions in the already low self-employment rates in most German regions, in contrast to increases in Greece

According to the Eurostat regional yearbook 2020, Germany has the lowest number of self-employed people in the EU. Of the 10 EU NUTS 2 regions with the lowest rate of self-employment, 8 are in Germany. The report also mentions that 'the pandemic and its associated measures appear to have generally led to a reduction in the already low self-employment rates recorded in most German regions. On the other hand, the already high self-employment rates recorded in some Greek regions continued to rise'. The three largest increases in the rate of self-employment among the 237 EU regions for which there is data available are in Greece.

1. How does the Commission explain this divergence in self-employment rates between Germany and Greece, in the context of the pandemic?
2. In its opinion, what explains the very high self-employment rate in Greece and the very low self-employment rate in Germany?