Question for written answer E-005339/2021 to the Commission Rule 138

Dimitrios Papadimoulis (The Left)

Subject: Significant delays in NSRF payments by the Greek Government

Notwithstanding the severe economic climate in Greece (caused by the pandemic, high energy costs, etc.), the Greek Government is choosing not to make full use of available financial instruments. Private sector economic operators¹ and almost all of the press² are now expressing concern at significant delays by the Greek Government in making payments for NSRF 2014-2020 projects and at its decision to introduce 'prioritisation' arrangements for payment requests, owing to a lack of Public Investment Programme funding. This concerns both infrastructural projects and support programmes for businesses, including those affected by the pandemic. This is despite the fact that a special EUfunded ring-fenced account has been set up for NSRF measures, with the stipulation that funding priority be given to the next NSRF payment requests.

In view of this:

Is the Commission aware of the very long delays affecting NSRF payments in Greece?

Are the conditions regarding the special ring-fenced account being respected?

Does it concur with the Greek Government's 'prioritisation' arrangements and, if not, what measures will it take to regularise payments for NSRF 2014-2020 projects in Greece?

https://pedmede.gr/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/1619_19112021-1.pdf, http://www.sate.gr/nea/2020SATE-35818.pdf

https://www.efsyn.gr/oikonomia/elliniki-oikonomia/320056_stasi-pliromon-apo-espa-kataggelloyn-oiergoliptes, https://www.sofokleousin.gr/stasi-pliromon-se-erga-espa-kataggelies-ergolipton