

**Question for written answer E-000694/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Dimitrios Papadimoulis** (The Left), **Konstantinos Arvanitis** (The Left), **Alexis Georgoulis** (The Left), **Petros Kokkalis** (The Left), **Stelios Kouloglou** (The Left), **Elena Kountoura** (The Left)

Subject: Subject: Criminal proceedings against former prosecutor and assistant prosecutors responsible for investigating the Novartis corruption scandal

Following the prosecution of journalists responsible for revealing the Novartis scandal in Greece, criminal proceedings have also been initiated against Eleni Touloupaki, former prosecutor responsible for investigating corruption, as well as the two assistant prosecutors assigned to the Novartis case. They have been charged with complicity in organised crime and abuse of power, both serious felonies. The targeting of the former prosecutor, who led the probe into the Novartis scandal in Greece and lost her job following the abolition of her post, has provoked strong opposition, even within the ruling party.

It must be remembered that Novartis finally paid an amount of USD 346m in an out-of-court settlement with the US. In the meantime, Greek Council of State plenary has, since December 2020, unanimously approved a series of judicial, extrajudicial and administrative proceedings to uphold the rights of the Greek State. However, although the opinion has been formally accepted by the ministers responsible, no action has so far been taken by the Greek Government.

In view of the ever-increasing erosion of the rule of law in Greece:

1. Can the Commission say whether it considers the targeting of the journalists and prosecutors who investigated the Novartis scandal is making matters worse in this respect?
2. Is it planning to subject these criminal prosecutions to close and analytical scrutiny in its next Rule of Law Report?