

**Question for written answer E-002857/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dimitrios Papadimoulis (The Left)

Subject: Scandal surrounding the surveillance of journalists and politicians in Greece

The scandal surrounding the surveillance of journalists and politicians in Greece, including an attempt uncovered by the European Parliament to hack into the mobile phone of Nikos Androulakis MEP, has caused an international press outcry¹ and led to the resignation of Central Intelligence chief Panagiotis Kontoleon², together with that of the Prime Minister's Secretary General³. The European Parliament President has already issued a number of statements making known her disapproval⁴. A reply to a letter from the Commission, delivered by the Greek Government through its Permanent Representation to the EU, contains a number of pointed comments, indirectly challenging EU competence and the credibility of international media reports regarding the scandal⁵. Furthermore, in response to a Politico Europe report, a government representative lost no time in seeking to discredit the newspaper's Greek contributor, provoking an angry reaction from Politico⁶ and the Foreign Press Association⁷. This scandal raises serious issues regarding breach of privacy and personal data, undermining the rule of law and the functioning of our democratic institutions. In view of this:

1. Can the Commission give its views regarding these threats to the rule of law and say what further steps it plans to take?
2. Will the Commission, acting within its terms of reference, cooperate with the Greek authorities and the European Parliament in seeking to clarify matters regarding this scandal?
3. Why have the President of the Commission and the Commissioners responsible failed to follow the example already set by the European Parliament President in issuing a statement?

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/22/opinion/greece-mitsotakis-predator-spyware.html>,
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/08/09/greece-intelligence-surveillance-kyriakos-mitsotakis/>

² Under Law 4622/2019, supervision of the Central Intelligence Service is the responsibility of the Prime Minister's Office, which is in turn directly answerable to the Prime Minister himself.

³ https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2022/08/08/greece-spying-scandal-shakes-mitsotakis-government_5992879_4.html

⁴ <https://www.papadimoulis.gr/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Letter-from-President-Metsola-to-Vice-President-Papadimoulis.pdf>

⁵ https://www.iefimerida.gr/sites/default/files/2022-08/AS5506_LETTER%20TO%20Ms%20Ana%20GALLEGO%20TORRES.pdf

⁶ <https://www.politico.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/24/Response-to-allegations-against-POLITICO-contributor-Nektaria-Stamouli.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.fpa.gr/category/announcements/>