

**Question for written answer E-002990/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dimitrios Papadimoulis (The Left)

Subject: Appointment of judge criticised for her anti-Semitic views as Vice-President of the Supreme Court

The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KIS) has expressed anger¹ at a recent appointment to the post of Vice-President of the Supreme Court that was decided by the Greek cabinet on 30 August 2022, in line with a recommendation from the Minister for Justice. It points out that the new appointee cast a minority vote in a court of first instance in favour of acquitting Konstantinos Plevris, a notorious neo-Nazi sympathiser and author of an anti-Semitic work entitled 'Jews, the whole truth'. In addition, the judge in question presented a 32-page explanatory statement in support of the author's extreme anti-Semitic views. This appointment in one of the top Greek courts has also been heavily criticised by the European Jewish Congress², the international press³ and even members of the governing party⁴.

Furthermore, the Commission strategy on combating anti-Semitism and fostering Jewish life (2021-2030)⁵ acknowledges the key role of the judiciary in the effective implementation of legislation banning hate speech and hate crime (under the provisions of the relevant framework decision) and in safeguarding the rights of victims.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission consider such decisions to be useful in the fight against intolerance and anti-Semitism at all levels, including in the judiciary?
2. What progress is being made in Greece and the Member States as a whole in implementing the strategy on combating anti-Semitism?

¹ https://kis.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3646:2022-09-02-10-18-25&catid=54:2009-05-27-11-10-17&Itemid=30

² https://eurojewcong.org/news/communities-news/greece/greek-jewish-community-decries-appointment-of-suspected-holocaust-denier-to-the-supreme-court/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=greek-jewish-community-decries-appointment-of-suspected-holocaust-denier-to-the-supreme-court

³ <https://taz.de/Empoerung-in-Griechenland/!5876261/>

⁴ <https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/UserFiles/c0d5184d-7550-4265-8e0b-078e1bc7375a/12051980.pdf>

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0615&from=EN>