

**Question for written answer E-003535/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dimitrios Papadimoulis (The Left)

Subject: Involvement of large advisory companies as contractors for both the preparation and implementation of national recovery and resilience plans

The #RecoveryFiles investigation conducted by the Follow the Money Group in cooperation with journalists from 15 countries reveals the involvement of large advisory companies in both the preparation and implementation of the national recovery and resilience plans, raising issues of conflict of interest and unfair competition¹. In the case of Greece for example, the investigation has revealed that a firm of consultants actively involved in the development of the Greek national recovery and resilience plan is also a member of the consortium awarded an EUR 51.5 million project for 'Financial Reform in Central Government and General Administration', EUR 36.1 million of which is to be provided by the Recovery and Resilience Facility². The Commission has declined to disclose the relevant documents, indicating that the Greek Government and the consultancy firm have refused their consent³. However, it has provided a list of documents showing that the firm in question was in contact with the Commission in this regard and was also keeping the Greek Ministry of Digital Governance constantly updated⁴.

In the light of this:

What view does the Commission take of the fact that large advisory firms involved drawing up national recovery and resilience plans are also recipients of substantial funding under this heading?

Will it examine the possibility of conflicts of interest in cases such as the above?

What measures will it take to ensure the sound management of funds, avoid conflicts of interest and achieve improved transparency and accountability?

¹ <https://www.ftm.eu/recoveryfiles>

² <https://www.reportersunited.gr/9858/pwc-tameio-anakampsis-recoveryfiles/>, https://www.lemonde.fr/les-decodeurs/article/2022/10/18/comment-les-cabinets-de-conseil-profitent-des-plans-de-relance-europeens_6146233_4355770.html?fbclid=IwAR1SwAJklnVPeK7aaV4nsiv3kqqL9siUASn4fhOQW5YjLHz-GCh8-sXfARA, https://www.efsyn.gr/oikonomia/elliniki-oikonomia/364341_hryso-tameio-kai-i-eklekti-symboylos

³ https://www.asktheeu.org/en/request/9212/response/32273/attach/2/Initial%20reply%202021%201684%20PA%20MV.pdf?cookie_passthrough=1

⁴ https://www.asktheeu.org/en/request/9212/response/32273/attach/4/List%20of%20documents.pdf?cookie_passthrough=1