

**Question for written answer E-003270/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)

Subject: New developments in the Greek 'Predatorgate' scandal

Recently, members of the constitutionally enshrined and independent ADAE¹ were summoned to appear in court on 9 November as suspects in relation to the checks they carried out and the statements they gave to the Greek Parliament's inquiry committee responsible for investigating the Greek 'Predatorgate' scandal. Meanwhile, according to revelations made by Greek and international media, text messages infected with the Predator spyware were sent to 11 high-ranking figures (senior public prosecutors, politicians, businessmen, a former EU Commissioner, a newspaper publisher and the chief of the Hellenic Police). The text messages appeared to have been sent from the private phone number of a relative of the Prime Minister's former Secretary General. There are therefore new and particularly worrying facts adding to the scandalous illegal wiretapping affair.

These developments, together with the incriminating evidence already gathered in relation to the case (e.g. political pressure and threatening public statements, sudden legislative amendments and the replacement of members of ADAE, refusal of the EYP² to cooperate with ADAE and granting of licences for the export of Predator spyware via the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs) confirm not only the flagrant violation of Articles 7, 8 and 47 of the CFREU and Articles 8 and 13 of the ECHR but also the blatant circumvention of the separation of powers, a founding principle of the rule of law, through the repeated manipulation and intimidation of the judiciary as well as of members of ADAE, a custodian of fundamental rights.

In view of this:

What kind of immediate and effective actions does the Commission intend to take to normalise the situation and stop the further decline of the rule of law in Greece?

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¹ Hellenic Authority for the Information and Communication Security and Privacy

² Hellenic National Intelligence Service