

**Question for written answer E-003532/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Alexis Georgoulis (NI)**

**Subject:** Transfer of National Observatory of Athens oversight to the Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection

The Greek Government recently decided, in a draft law titled 'Restructuring of Civil Protection – National Air Rescue and Air Ambulance Mechanism', to transfer oversight of the National Observatory of Athens (NOA) to the Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection. However, NOA, which is the oldest research centre in Greece, had, up until now, been overseen by the General Secretariat for Research and Innovation (GSRI) and its main mission was to conduct high-quality basic and applied research across a broad range of scientific fields in the Earth, atmospheric and space sciences, such as seismology, geophysics, climatology and climate change, meteorology, satellite remote sensing, astrophysics, and others.

In view of this:

Does the political decision to transfer the oversight of NOA from the GSRI to an operational Ministry not run counter to the Commission's intention to create a single EU market for research, innovation and technology?

Given that only the GSRI possesses the relevant expertise on matters relating to funding and managing research and innovation, as well as an awareness of the peculiarities of research centres and their staff, will the decision affect research and the implementation of funded research programmes that come under EU Framework Programmes such as Horizon Europe?

What will happen with the research programmes that have already been included in the framework of the approved and revised Recovery Fund plan?

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