

Question for written answer E-003571/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Taxation and the witch-hunt against the self-employed

In the context of the new State budget, the Greek Government is putting forward a bill that will tie a noose around the necks of thousands of self-employed professionals and scientists. It is doing so on the pretext of combating tax evasion.

The bill aims to set the minimum annual imputed income threshold at EUR 10 920 (the sum obtained by multiplying the minimum wage (EUR 780) by 14 months) for all self-employed people. This will apply even in years when the self-employed make a loss. The imputed income sum will be increased based on a number of criteria. For instance, the sum will be increased every three years that a profession is practised, reaching up to EUR 50 000. This change will involve a tax increase of more than EUR 500, depending on the self-employed person's income.

Based on consecutive government measures and in line with EU guidelines, small businesses are taxed on the very first Euro they make, they have no tax-free threshold, they pay a business tax and dozens of other indirect taxes, as well as having to pay the fees charged by systems such as 'myDATA', when carrying out electronic transactions.

In view of this:

1. What does the Commission have to say about the fact that, based on its guidelines, the self-employed, who are already being bled dry, are faced with a further increase in taxation while at the same time they are seeking some basic relief by demanding the establishment of a tax-free threshold of EUR 12 000 for the self-employed in Greece plus an additional EUR 3 000 for each dependent family member, as well as demanding an end to the business tax and to bank charges for electronic transactions?
2. What does it have to say about the fact that, based on its guidelines, tax exemptions and fresh tax breaks for big business are multiplying, making the latter very rich indeed, while the self-employed are out protesting, calling for big business profits to be taxed?

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