

**Question for written answer E-000078/2024  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Ioannis Lagos (NI)**

**Subject:** Employer unaccountability in Greece and non-payment of the Christmas bonus

A plethora of complaints from employees in the private sector in Greece highlights yet another grave issue afflicting the Greek labour sector, a remnant of the archaic working conditions that have existed in the country for at least a decade. Employers are either asking employees to hand back their Christmas bonuses after these have been paid or they are not paying them in the first place. Under Greek labour law, the Christmas bonus must be paid to all employees by 21 December of each year and all employees are entitled to it, regardless of whether they are on a fixed-term or permanent contract, regardless of whether they work part-time or full-time and no matter who their employer is. However, many employers are exploiting the country's high unemployment rate and the inability of the State oversight system to monitor the situation and are demanding that employees return their Christmas bonuses, usually threatening them with dismissal, which, among other things, constitutes a criminal offence. The complaints concern SMEs such as food establishments, cafés, hairdressers, retailers, bakers, florists, mechanics and confectioners/patisseries, as well as big businesses such as cleaning and security service companies, call centres, etc.

In view of this:

What steps will it take to address employer unaccountability in Greece, given the inadequacy of State oversight mechanisms?

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