

ORAL QUESTION H-0579/03

for Question Time at the part-session in October 2003

pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure

by Antonios Trakatellis

to the Commission

Subject: Implementation of Community law: system for public contracts and the award of studies for public works in Greece

The system for awarding public contracts, studies and construction projects in Greece has often been described as being open to abuse, and the irregularities detected lead to delays in the completion of projects, construction faults, the submission of complaints to the Commission on the grounds of infringements of Community law (Thessaloniki metro, Ilarionas hydroelectric power station, etc), as well as the waste of Community resources. With specific regard to concession contracts, there is no legal framework in Greece operating alongside the rules laid down by Community law. On the contrary, such contracts are governed by ad hoc rules adopted for each individual case, which frequently leads to complaints being lodged with the Commission.

To what extent are practices relating to the award of public works contracts in Greece compatible with Community law? Can the Commission confirm the reports which have been published according to which the Commission has called for the suspension of payments relating to the award of studies for public works in Greece and a review of the legislative framework governing public contracts and the award of studies on the grounds of an infringement of Community law? Have any complaints been lodged in relation to concession contracts, and if so, what action will the Commission take to ensure that Community law is complied with?

Tabled: 01.10.2003

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