WRITTEN QUESTION P-3575/02 by Ioannis Averoff (PPE-DE) to the Commission

Subject: Shortcomings in the application of IACS in Greece

The Court of Auditors' Special Report No 4/2001¹ includes a table (No 4) giving a summary of the weaknesses identified by the Commission in the Member States with regard to the year 1998 (mission reports from 1998 to June 2000). This table shows that there are key control weaknesses in Greece. Specifically, the weaknesses identified in connection with area aid are: respect of deadlines, computerised databases, the identification system for parcels, administrative controls, on-the-spot controls and penalties, while in connection with animal premiums the weaknesses identified are: respect of deadlines, computerised databases, the identification and registration system for animals, aid applications, administrative controls and on-the-spot controls. In addition, paragraph 64 of the report states that the Commission's services have concluded that the integrated administrative and control system (IACS) introduced by Council Regulation No 3508/1992² of 27 November 1992 establishing an integrated administration and control system for certain Community aid schemes has not been implemented by Greece.

What is the current situation with regard to Greece's implementation of IACS and what measures has the Commission taken or does it intend to take to ensure that Greece's implementation of IACS is satisfactory?

Is the Commission aware of the reasons for these shortcomings in implementation? In its view, what impact have the shortcomings in applying this system had on the effectiveness of the checks carried out?

Can the Commission state the total amount for financial corrections implemented at Greece's expense from 1 January 1997 (the deadline for full implementation of the IACS) as a result of unsatisfactory physical inspections arising from the failure to implement the system?

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¹ OJ C 214, 31.7.2001, p. 1.

² OJ L 355, 5.12.1992, p. 1.