

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3652/09
by Costas Botopoulos (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Funding of social research in Greece

Reliable studies - in particular comparative studies - are an indispensable tool for policy-making to investigate and diagnose social problems and the social groups most affected. This applies particularly to countries with high levels of poverty and inequality, such as Greece.

The only public research body in Greece dealing with social inequality, violence and crime and social affairs in general is the National Centre for Social Studies (NCSS) which is fifty years old this year. However, over the last few years public funding for this Centre has barely covered its salary and operating costs. There are also credible reports that the Greek government intends to abolish the NCSS completely.

On the basis of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Does it have any comparative data for each Member State on the funding of social research?
2. Does it consider the possible abolition of a scientific body representing a Member State to be acceptable and in keeping with EU rules governing research and science?
3. Does it intend to make recommendations to the Greek government in this connection, because, by no longer funding the NCSS, Greece will no longer be represented in the greatest socio-economic study in Europe, the 'European Social Study'?