

**Question for written answer P-009548/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (PPE)**

Subject: IMF recommendations regarding minimum wages in Greece and EU assessment

According to the latest available data<sup>1</sup> on the monthly minimum wage in the 28 Member States, the figure in Greece in 2012 was EUR 683.76, which was the eleventh lowest in EU (for 2012 no data was available for seven Member States, due to a review) and the fourth lowest in the eurozone. Furthermore, under Law 4093<sup>2</sup>, the minimum gross salary in Greece for employees aged over 25 was set even lower at EUR 586.08 and EUR 510.95 for younger employees. A recent answer<sup>3</sup> to a parliamentary question I had tabled in April 2013 on the minimum wage in Greece stressed that there would be a review of the minimum wage framework by March 2014 with a view to improving effectiveness and that a thorough analysis should precede any decision. However, a recent report<sup>4</sup> by the International Monetary Fund on its policies in the eurozone emphasised, in the context of the proposals for Greece, that there should be a reduction in the labour tax wedge in a budget-neutral way and that additional measures should be taken to lower unit labour costs. Given the efforts of the Greek government and the social partners and the fact that the Task Force and the World Bank are monitoring and enforcing the project of enhancing the competitiveness of the Greek economy, will the Commission say:

- Following the enactment of Law 4093, how does the Greek minimum wage compare with that of other Member States?

- Does it agree with the International Monetary Fund's views? How does it understand - and what specific measures will it take to implement - the IMF's recommendations on additional measures to be taken to reduce labour costs in addition to reducing the tax burden on labour?

- Does it believe that there is room for a further reduction in the minimum wage in the Greek market, given the unprecedented decline in the purchasing power of Greek citizens?

- Does it have any estimates of the extent to which the reduction in the minimum wage has so far boosted Greek competitiveness, and also of the benefits which a new review of the minimum wage might produce? What recommendations do the conclusions of the Task Force and the World Bank team make in this connection?

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<sup>1</sup> [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=earn\\_mw\\_cur&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=earn_mw_cur&lang=en)

<sup>2</sup> <http://goo.gl/YjwVD>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=P-2013-002029&language=EL>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2013/cr13231.pdf>