

**Priority question for written answer P-001084/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EPPO investigation into contract award process for hundreds of RRF-funded projects in Greece worth EUR 2.5 billion

According to a news report that came out yesterday¹, the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) has launched an investigation into how just 10 companies in Greece were awarded more than 600 projects in the technology sector, each worth over EUR 2.5 billion, which came from the Recovery Fund. The projects were awarded to three Greek telecommunications firms, five IT companies and two consultancy firms between 2020 and 2023, following tendering processes where there had been only one bid. It should be noted that according to the Single Market Scoreboard for 2022², single-bidding in public procurement in Greece increased to 48 % (compared to the EU average of 37 %). The Greek government also awarded 41.60 % of funding from the country's recovery and resilience plan to the 100 largest recipients of RRF funds. Greece recorded the fourth highest percentage, with the EU average standing at 28.22 %³. The case raises serious questions and concerns, also in light of the statements recently made by the President of the European Court of Auditors, who expressed deep concern over the risk of fraud in the use of RRF funds⁴.

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission aware of the EPPO's initiatives?
2. Does it intend to ask for explanations concerning the way in which the projects in question were awarded?
3. What steps does it intend to take to ensure the sound management and use of EU funds?

Submitted: 11.4.2024

¹ <https://www.politico.eu/article/fraud-busters-swoop-greece-contract-involve-e2-5-billion-eu-recovery-fund-cosmote-vodafone-nova/>

² https://single-market-scoreboard.ec.europa.eu/countries/greece_en

³ [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/761979/IPOL_BRI\(2024\)761979_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/761979/IPOL_BRI(2024)761979_EN.pdf)

⁴ <https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/interview/e600m-italy-recovery-fund-fraud-likely-to-be-repeated-eu-audit-chief-warns/>