



28.1.2025

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

**Subject: Petition No 1000/2024 by P. V. (Greek) on the length of proceedings before Greek civil courts**

### 1. Summary of petition

The petitioner complains about the excessive delays in delivering court judgments in Greece, explaining that this situation significantly affects the daily lives of many citizens and goes against the principle of the effective and expeditious administration of justice, which is a fundamental right guaranteed at both European and international level. The petitioner therefore calls on the European Parliament to investigate this situation and intervene in order to improve the effectiveness of the judicial system in Greece.

### 2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 22 November 2024. Information requested from Commission under Rule 233(5).

### 3. Commission reply, received on 28 January 2025

The efficiency of justice systems is a necessary condition for the protection of rights, legal certainty and public confidence in the rule of law. An efficient justice system manages its caseload and delivers decisions without undue delay. Excessively long proceedings and backlogs undermine the trust of citizens and businesses in national justice systems. The Commission closely follows the functioning of the justice systems of all Member States, including in Greece, through different tools.

The Commission monitors the efficiency of the Greek justice system through the annual Rule of Law Report. In the 2024 Country Chapter on Greece<sup>1</sup>, the Commission noted that serious

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<sup>1</sup> <https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/6741f4b2-6a10-44ba-b40c->

challenges remain regarding the length of proceedings before civil courts and the Council of State with some improvements in ordinary administrative courts. The Report also referred to efforts to reduce the length of proceedings, including the transfer of categories of non-litigious cases from courts to lawyers and the planned reform of the preliminary procedure of the Council of State. In addition, the Greek National Recovery and Resilience Plan contains several measures aiming to reform the justice system and improve the efficiency and the quality of the justice system. These include the new judicial map in civil and criminal justice, which aims at a balanced distribution of cases among first instance judges and a speedier administration of justice in civil and criminal justice.

The Commission also follows the efficiency of the justice systems through the EU Justice Scoreboard, which presents an annual overview of indicators on the efficiency, quality and independence of justice systems. Its purpose is to assist the Member States improve the effectiveness of their national justice systems by providing objective, reliable and comparable data. Its latest edition was published in June 2024<sup>2</sup>.

Nevertheless, under the Treaties on which the European Union is based, the Commission has no general powers to intervene in individual judicial cases, nor is the Commission in a position to examine how individual cases are addressed by the judicial authorities of a Member State. The adjudication in specific cases comes under the responsibility of judicial authorities of each Member State.

The Commission remains committed to upholding the rule of law and efficiency of justice in all Member States and will continue to work with the Greek authorities to promote and enhance the rule of law within the framework of the comprehensive rule of law mechanism.

### Conclusion

Within the limits of its competences, the Commission is determined to continue to use all the instruments at its disposal to address the concerns identified.

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2 [https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/84aa3726-82d7-4401-98c1-fee04a7d2dd6\\_en?filename=2024%20EU%20Justice%20Scoreboard.pdf](https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/84aa3726-82d7-4401-98c1-fee04a7d2dd6_en?filename=2024%20EU%20Justice%20Scoreboard.pdf)