



Eurogroup
The President

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Mr Mejia
American Statistical Association
732 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1943
The United States of America

Dear Mr Mejia,

Thank you for bringing to my attention the letter you have addressed to the Prime Minister of Greece Alexis Tsipras regarding the prosecution of Andreas Georgiou, the former President of the Hellenic Statistical Authority ELSTAT.

At the Eurogroup meeting of 9 September 2016 under my Chairmanship, the Euro Area Finance Ministers expressed concerns on the developments related to the criminal investigation concerning the former President as well as senior staff of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) regarding the alleged falsification of fiscal data. It was recalled that EUROSTAT has consistently validated ELSTAT fiscal statistics produced from 2010 onwards. This is reflected in the summing-up letter of the meeting which is publicly available.

Credible and reliable statistics are of paramount importance for the ongoing stability support programme in Greece. In 2012, the Greek government pledged to ensure the reliability, credibility and independent compilation of official statistics, including by defending the independence of ELSTAT, commitments which were renewed in the Supplemental Memorandum of Understanding of 16 June 2016 that underpins the ongoing Stability Support Programme for Greece. This matter will thus continue to be monitored by the Eurogroup.

Yours sincerely,

Jeroen DIJSSELBLOEM