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Inge Gräßle (EPP/CDU):

More EU money from the budget for Greece does not solve any problems

The country ranked as one of the worst performer in implementing EU money

"More money for Greece - even though several proposals point in this direction - is not what the country really needs. We see that even the money available in the budget is not always used in Greece because of a lack of competences in the administration, or has to be paid back due to errors. That is stated by Inge Gräßle, rapporteur for the 2013 Commission discharge and chair of the committee on budgetary control. Despite the 60 EU officials forming the Task Force for Greece and implementing EU projects on the spot, there is not always progress:

1. Out of 981 Task force projects 48 are still delayed or even in danger of failure. 5.6 million euros are at stake in these 48 projects.
2. The EU co-finances every project in Greece with 95 percent, which comes close to a gift. The problem on the other side is the lack of ownership by Greece.
3. Concerning the rural development policy 2007-2013, Greece is the worst performer with an absorption rate of 40 percent still at the end of 2013, according to the most recent figures available.
4. Agriculture/direct payments: Greece ranked one of the 5 worst performers in the EU. 117.8 million euros are at risk which puts 18 percent of the overall direct payments at risk. These 117.8 million euros have to be paid back to the EU. Concerning these recoveries, Greece is the second worst performer: only 21 percent of the money which is for the EU is effectively paid back.
5. Structural funds: Cohesion policy: administrative problems can also be seen in this policy area. Greece accounts for 10 percent of all financial corrections in the EU caused by irregular, unlawful. (Total 912.4 million euros; Greece: 95.47 million euros)
6. Financial Engineering Instruments: In the European Rural Development fund 2007-2013 about 109.25 million euros were paid out to Greek banks, until the end of 2013 not even one single euro was paid to the final beneficiaries to implement this money for projects. In structural funds, 488 million euros were paid out to Greek banks and only 16 percent reached the beneficiaries.

Only the fisheries fund is a success. All of the 72.37 million euros reached the beneficiaries. Greece is together with the Netherlands in this domain the best performer.

Inge Gräßle: "We see that "send more money" does not reach the heart of the problem. There are a lot of constraints like delays at maturation stage, delays in licensing, dissolution of contracts due to lack of liquidity of contractors and lengthy court appeals during awarding procedure.....

The availability of all this money shows that there is financing for growth and jobs in Greece, and that the complaints about "only austerity" politics do not correspond to all the support given to Greece. This criticism aims at discrediting the EUs policy making for Greece.

Für weitere Informationen:

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