

**Question for written answer E-015701/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)**

Subject: Addressing the immediate problems facing IGME employees

The Greek Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration (IGME) is at risk of being dissolved because of the policy of chronic underfunding pursued by successive governments, a policy which is continuing under the SYRIZA – ANEL coalition. Experienced staff are retiring without being replaced. For instance, of the 393 persons employed at the Institute in 2011 only 208 are left in the whole of Greece.

IGME undertook research projects approved in the period 2010 - 2012 for funding amounting to EUR 28.5 million under the NSRF for the 2007-2013 programming period. For the implementation of the programmes, it hired 62 employees, specialised researchers and technicians (without by any means filling the huge staff shortages) on contracts due to expire in December 2015.

If sufficient funding is not secured after December, the 62 contract workers will be fired and join the ranks of the unemployed and it will be difficult – if not impossible – to complete the projects.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

What measures will it take to ensure adequate funding in order to prevent the dismissal of the contract staff and how does it view demands that the Institute be staffed with permanent staff with stable terms of employment and full social security and labour rights?