



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
HELLENIC STATISTICAL
AUTHORITY

Piraeus, 9/1/2015

PRESS RELEASE

The Hellenic Statistical Authority expresses its deep disappointment at the deeply damaging and demeaning treatment of the National Statistical Service of the country by certain political parties, which have issued press releases about alleged violations of trade union rights in the Authority. The press releases, characteristically, were issued without seeking any prior contact with the Authority to check the validity of information and mainly engaged in inappropriate references to the President of the Independent Authority that produces statistics for the country. In particular, the press releases include language about "strong disapproval" of the "behavior" of the president and his "lack of morality". It is also foreseen with conviction in one of the press releases that the President of the Hellenic Statistical Authority "will soon be called to account for the crimes for which he is charged." This point is a reference to the unprecedented prosecution of the President of the Hellenic Statistical Authority for the fact that, rather than continuing the statistical frauds and sleights of hand of the past that have been ascertained by the documented reports and communications of the European Commission and the recent report of the European Parliament,¹ he fully implemented national and European legislation for the calculation of the budget deficit of Greece from November 2010 onwards!

The authors of these press releases do not realize that such announcements actively undermine the statistical production of Greece and therefore the country itself, especially in this difficult period.

In addition, they do not realize that they simultaneously undermine the proper functioning of all Public Administration services in the country now and in the future. This is because such acts incite contempt of the most basic rules of operation of the Public Administration from its own employees by simply and abusively invoking trade union status.

More generally, it is a fact that the Hellenic Statistical Authority has been the object of continuous attacks including from within the institution for over four years now, driven by political and clientele motives that have nothing whatsoever to do with public service or trade union duties. Their sole aim has been to destroy any positive

¹ <http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-eurostatpr>

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2014-0239+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

effort made to ensure the reliability of the current statistics of Greece, which is the product of conscientious employees working at ELSTAT in recent years, and to return the National Statistical Service to the period of «greek statistics».

It should finally be understood that statistics must be independent of politics, for public policy to be successful but also generally for the good of our country. This is at least our effort and hope.