

Greece: Fines for Uncontrolled Waste Dumping

In a ruling from the European Court of Justice on 4 July 2000, Greece was ordered to pay a fine of Euro 20,000 per day for failing to end the uncontrolled dumping of waste near Hania on the island of Crete, as ordered in a first judgement handed down in 1992.

On 20 November 2000, 139 days after the judgement, the Commission reported that Greece had still not paid a single Euro. Nor had Athens responded to two letters demanding payment corresponding to the fine for July, August, September and October.

Caroline Jackson, a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) from the United Kingdom, called for a clear state-

ment from the Commission that payment will be due until the day the problem is resolved and not only until a plan has been drawn up on how to solve it. She received assurances from the Commission that this would be the case.

Minerva Malliori, a Greek MEP and a member of the ruling party in Greece, assured the MEPs that her Government would pay the sum for the first three months by the end of the year and that action will be taken to end the current waste management situation in Crete within the same time-frame.

So far, we have been unable to learn whether Greece has indeed taken any of the actions promised.

