

Mr Karolos Papoulias
President of the Hellenic Republic
Presidential Mansion
Irodou Attikou Street
Athens
Greece

19 February 2013

Dear Mr Papoulias,

I am writing on behalf of the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) concerning the legal proceedings being taken against the president of ELSTAT, Andreas Georgiou.

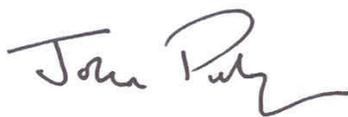
Standards for the production of official statistics, both in terms of quality and integrity, are well established at international level in the United Nations' statement on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. As one of the world's leading statistical societies with a membership that includes official statisticians from many countries, the RSS is keenly interested in the adherence to these standards across the world.

In an open letter to the members of the European Statistical System committee, the Director General of Eurostat, Walter Radermacher, has confirmed the confidence of Eurostat in the integrity of the Greek statistics for which Andreas Georgiou was responsible in his position as president of ELSTAT. The Royal Statistical Society has no reason to doubt the confidence that Eurostat has in these statistics and in Mr Georgiou's work.

On the basis of the information available to us, we have deep concerns about the validity of the case against Mr Georgiou. We wish to urge that all is done to ensure that he is given a scrupulously fair hearing.

Furthermore, it will be vital that those working within the Greek statistical service can be confident that their work to deliver data of integrity can be done according to their professional duty and in line with the United Nations' principles. They should be in no doubt that they do so free of any interference or pressure, implied or real. Therefore, we hope suitable reassurance will be provided to them.

Yours sincerely,



John Pullinger
President of the Royal Statistical Society

Cc: Walter Radermacher, Director General of Eurostat
Dennis Trewin, chair of the International Statistical Institute's Ethics Committee
Jae C Lee, President of the International Statistical Institute