



Post by Executive Director

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The Supreme Civil and Criminal Court of Greece can and should end, at last, 14 years of legal persecution against former Greek chief statistician, Andreas Georgiou, for upholding the fundamental principles of statistical independence and professional integrity.

The Court's decision to reopen the case for alleged violation of duty, with proceedings scheduled for September 19, 2025, is a significant development. Dr. Georgiou was previously sentenced to two years in prison for failing to submit the corrected 2006-2009 deficit and debt statistics of Greece to a vote but acting in accordance with the principle of professional independence outlined in the European Statistics Code of Practice (Indicator 1.4). The reopening of this case follows the 2023 European Court of Human Rights ruling in favor of Dr. Georgiou, finding that Greece violated his right to a fair trial, and the Greek government's subsequent withdrawal of its challenge to this ruling.

This is the only case against Dr. Georgiou remaining open; the rest of altogether seven cases (including those involving his former colleagues at the national statistics office) have been dropped. The charges in this case should be dropped as well.

Criminal sanctions for developing and presenting independent, objective, and reliable statistical data are not justifiable in any circumstances. By dropping the charges, the Court would be showing that Greece embraces the international statistical principles enshrined in the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the European Statistics Code of Practice. It would signal that Greece chooses accurate and impartial statistics, which are manifestly in the interests of Greece, the EU, and the world.

More is at stake here than the persecution of an individual official statistician. Official statistics themselves and all who produce them are on trial. The integrity of official statistics depends on the protection of those who produce them. As Executive Director of the American Statistical Association (ASA), a non-partisan scientific organization, I stand with Dr. Georgiou and urge Greek officials to end these unjust prosecutions for the good of all, exonerate him of the remaining conviction of alleged violation of duty, and issue a public apology.

For details on the history of Georgiou's legal persecution, see [this link](#). For ASA Board statements regarding Georgiou, see, for example, [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).