



Mr. A. Georgiou  
President of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT)  
Peiraios & Eponiton str 46m,  
185 10 PIREAS,  
ELLADA/GREECE

The Hague, 5 January 2012

Dear Mr Georgiou,

I am writing you in my capacity as President of the International Statistical Institute (ISI). The ISI is an autonomous international association with individual and institutional members worldwide.

It is with great concern that we have followed the attacks on the Hellenic Statistical Authority and the threats that you as President of ELSTAT, your deputy and the head of National Accounts are facing.

The ISI supports you in your endeavour to comply with the international standards for compilation and dissemination of statistical data. I am very concerned about the pressure that is put on you and your staff to deviate from these standards and good practices.

I would like to point at the ISI Declaration on Professional Ethics, adopted in July 2010, which unambiguously describes as the first and leading principle 'Pursuing Objectivity':

**Pursuing Objectivity**

Statisticians should pursue objectivity without fear or favor, only selecting and using methods designed to produce the most accurate results. They should present all findings openly, completely, and in a transparent manner regardless of the outcomes. Statisticians should be particularly sensitive to the need to present findings when they challenge a preferred outcome. The statistician should guard against predictable misinterpretation or misuse. If such misinterpretation or misuse occurs, steps should be taken to inform potential users. Findings should be communicated for the benefit of the widest possible community, yet attempt to ensure no harm to any population group

On behalf of the ISI I would like to express our strongest possible support and to encourage you in your mission to comply with the international standards for sound and objective statistical information.

The ISI calls on the Greek Government to fully support the endeavours of ELSTAT to render impartial and reliable statistics and to respect international good practices and standards.

It should be emphasized that objective and good quality statistics are indispensable for the running of a democratic society and the wellbeing of its citizens.

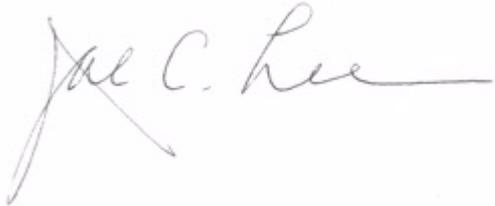
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A copy of this letter is sent to the Prime Minister of Greece and the Chairman of the Greek Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jae C. Lee". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Jae C Lee,  
President ISI