Question for written answer E-001443/2024
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Abandoned villages

Over the past eighty years, there has been a steady migration of population from rural areas to urban centres.

According to UN data, only 30% of the global population lived in cities in 1950, and the figure is expected to rise to 66% by 2050.

Villages are shrinking and disappearing. Aradena in Sfakia, Kalami and Sfendyli near Heraklion, Kranionas in Kastoria, Eleousa on the island of Rhodes, Palia Plagia in Aitoloakarnania, Mavronoros (Ioannina) and Gavros (Koresteia) are some of the Greek villages that for economic, geological or historical reasons, have been completely abandoned.

Architectural masterpieces and ways of life are being forgotten and swept aside as time and technology overtake them. Mass industrialisation and job opportunities in the cities may threaten the viability of rural life, while on the other hand, urban life is faced with diseconomies of scale, with excessively high rents making life extremely difficult for city dwellers. Citizens' demand for a better quality of life outside the cities is growing. Italy, Spain and Portugal have launched initiatives for repopulating abandoned villages.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission support initiatives for decentralisation?

2. Is there some form of investment framework, or are some incentives offered for the regions to undertake the repopulation and organised development of abandoned villages?

3. Are there any available European programmes that Greece could use to revive its abandoned or very small villages?

Submitted: 27.7.2024