

**Question for written answer E-001855/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Elena Kountoura (The Left)

Subject: Financial support urgently needed for tourism businesses in Magnesia, Thessaly, following string of natural disasters

The region of Thessaly, and in particular the regional unit of Magnesia, has been pummelled in recent years by a series of extreme weather events and natural disasters, culminating in the widespread floods of September 2023 and the pollution of the Pagasetic Gulf in August 2024, both of which led to serious environmental and socio-economic consequences.

Local tourism businesses such as hotels, rooms for rent, the food service sector and outdoor activities businesses have suffered significant and prolonged loss of revenue, which has had a direct impact on the local economy.

In view of:

- the Commission's reply¹ to my previous question², in which it highlighted that it 'is looking at various options to provide support to employees and businesses in Thessaly through comprehensive schemes which will allow them to adapt to change and strengthen their resilience in view of the ensuing challenges';

- the imminent adoption of the proposal to support Greece and four other European countries through the EU Solidarity Fund for the 2023 floods³,

can the Commission answer the following:

1. What existing financial tools can be deployed quickly to support Thessaly's tourism businesses and what are the possibilities of supporting these businesses through the transfer of funds from existing programmes?
2. Does it intend to look into the possibility of allowing for flexibility in the NSRF programmes or other financial tools in order to compensate tourism businesses for loss of revenue resulting from natural disasters?
3. Is it planning to look into the creation of a new financial tool to provide direct financial support to tourism businesses impacted by natural disasters?

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¹ Answer given by Ms Ferreira on behalf of the European Commission on 18 December 2023 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-003237-ASW_EN.html

² Question for written answer E-003237/2023 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-003237_EN.html

³ See the Commission proposal for the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Greece and France in support of recovery efforts following the serious flooding that took place in 2023. https://commission.europa.eu/publications/mobilisation-european-union-solidarity-fund-2024_en?prefLang=el