

**Question for written answer E-002423/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Economic and technical support to repair damage caused to Chios' mastic trees

Chios was recently hit by severe weather, which caused serious damage to the island's mastic trees. It is estimated that between 70 % and 80 % of mastic production was lost, with around 160 tonnes of mastic destroyed. Flooding and heavy rainfall have destroyed large swathes of cropland, leaving the island's mastic growers in despair. Mastic is a key economic resource for the island's producers and is a unique product that is not produced anywhere else in the world but Chios and bears the Protected Designation of Origin label. The Chios Masticha Growers Association has already begun carrying out on-the-spot checks to assess the full extent of the damage.

Bearing in mind the extent of the damage and the importance of mastic both to the local economy and the cultural heritage of Chios, can the Commission answer the following:

1. How does it intend to support the implementation of innovative technologies and practices to restore the crops that were destroyed and protect them from similar phenomena in the future?
2. Are there plans to provide technical assistance and promote the exchange of best practices between EU Member States to tackle the effects of natural disasters on agricultural land?

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