

**Question for written answer E-002676/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Maria Zacharia (NI)

Subject: AntiNero programme in Greece

The Greek Government is pushing the AntiNero programme (I, II, III) as the main fire protection tool for Greek forests. As a 'programme' it should be submitted for environmental assessment, in accordance with Directive 2001/42/EC, which applies to programmes that have a significant impact on the natural environment. In practice, however, it is implemented through ordinary forestry studies that are approved by the local forest departments. The forest works consist in systematic deforestation and removal of the understorey, without any proof that the programme is in fact capable of preventing even these forest fires. There is also the issue of the provisions of Directives 92/43/EEC on natural habitats and 2009/147/EC on birds being violated in cases where the programme is implemented in natural protected areas. Besides this, it is important to mention that the programme is being implemented with EU funding as part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan and it comes under Green Transition pillar with the title National Reforestation Plan (measure ID: 16849). However, there was a case in which an appropriation of EUR 70.5 million was approved through the AntiNero programme for the project 'Saving Energy in Businesses – Changing my business' energy system' (Ministry of Finance Decision of 24/01/2024 ref. No 11736 ΕΞ 2024 - Online Publication No: ΡΩΦΠΗ-1ΝΠ), which is completely unrelated to the programme in question.

Has the Commission been updated on the implementation of the AntiNero programmes, the progress of the funding and how it is being used?

Submitted: 27.11.2024