

**Question for written answer E-003167/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Kostas Papadakis (NI)**

Subject: The problem of water scarcity faced by struggling farmers

Farmers in Thessaly, Boeotia and other parts of Greece are confronted with the very acute problem of water scarcity.

Lakes such as Lake Plastiras or Lake Smokovo, which supply irrigation for tens of thousands of hectares of agricultural production, are experiencing extremely low water levels. A small number of farmers have joined the closed irrigation system, while many have turned to costly irrigation 'solutions'.

In the light of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What view does it take on the urgent need to implement the demands highlighted by the organised movement of the struggling farmers, who warn of the dire consequences of the lack of comprehensive modern infrastructure and land improvement projects ensuring uninterrupted and sufficient irrigation and that all struggling farmers can stay in their villages, without increases to the price of water or additional 'green' or other charges?
2. What view does it take of the fact that this acute problem of water scarcity and the consequences faced by struggling farmers following the catastrophic floods caused by Storm Daniel are being leveraged by the EU and national governments to drive forward the strategy to commercialise and privatise water, infrastructure and networks, which will cause production costs to soar further?
3. What view does it take of the fact that the promotion of the commercialisation and privatisation of water is being pursued through the dissolution and merger of local and general land improvement bodies and municipal water and sewerage companies throughout Greece, accompanied by designs based on the 'cost-benefit' principle and the involvement of large groups, which will exploit water by means of PPPs, transforming it into an even more expensive commodity?

Submitted: 1.8.2025