

**Question for written answer E-003216/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)

Subject: Water scarcity in the Prefecture of Evros and the need to take measures to manage the waters of the river Evros

The Prefecture of Evros – a region acting as a border to the whole of Europe – has been facing an acute environmental and agricultural crisis in recent years due to prolonged water scarcity and the rapid degradation of its hydrological system.

The recent expiration of the Greek-Bulgarian transnational agreement to channel water through the river Arda and the absence of a new binding arrangement have led to a fall in the water level of the river Evros. This has resulted in both the gradual destruction of important ecosystems in the river delta and the extremely serious irrigation problems that have devastating consequences for farmers in the area – both financially and in terms of yield.

In view of the fact that in 2001 the Commission and its Member States created the Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), with a view to its more effective and coordinated implementation, and in the context of which they set up the ‘European toolbox’, will the Commission say:

1. Which measures of the ‘toolbox’ could be activated to strengthen the resilience of the Prefecture, in order to reinforce irrigation, ensure sufficient water storage and improve water scarcity management in the area?
2. To date, has the Greek Government requested the activation of any measure relating to the problems faced by the Prefecture of Evros?
3. How can the Commission support the launch of a trilateral consultation between Greece, Bulgaria and Türkiye on the sustainable management of shared water resources of the river Evros?

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