Question for written answer E-003707/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Delays in the construction of the Tsikalariou dam in Naxos and lack of funding for irrigation networks

Naxos, one of Greece's islands with the highest levels of primary sector production, is facing a serious water supply problem. The Tsikalariou dam project, which was included in the Rural Development Programme in 2009, with co-financing from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, is facing undue delays. Despite a supplementary contract to the tune of around EUR 3 million having been signed in summer 2025, the project remains in the contractor mobilisation phase.

Even more worrying is the fact that irrigation networks – without which the dam cannot fulfil its purpose – have been included neither in the original contract nor in the supplementary contract, as they are considered as a separate funding item under the RDP. The project's completion thus hangs in the balance, giving rise to serious risks for the primary sector, the economy and the daily lives of local residents.

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

1. Is it monitoring the progress of the project's implementation, given it is being co-financed through the EAFRD?

2. What EU funding tools can be mobilised so that the needs of the irrigation networks in Naxos can be met without delay?

3. How can it be ensured that water infrastructure projects on islands do not remain incomplete for decades, thus undermining agricultural production and social cohesion?

Submitted: 24.9.2025