

**Question for written answer E-004245/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Need for a European Island Fund in the context of the new strategy for islands

The islands of the European Union are areas with permanent natural disadvantages, as recognised in Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Despite their importance for territorial cohesion, energy transition, security, tourism and the maritime economy, they continue to face serious difficulties due to geographical isolation, increased transport and energy costs, limited access to essential services and dependence on seasonal economic sectors.

The creation of a European initiative for islands and coastal regions, included in the Commission's work programme for 2026, is a positive development. However, without a specific financial instrument, there is a risk that this strategy will remain theoretical and will not bring tangible results for island communities.

Given the increasing pressures on islands due to water scarcity, the energy crisis and demographic decline, there is a need for a European Island Fund, which will support targeted investments in sustainable transport, energy autonomy, digital connectivity and demographic development.

Accordingly:

1. Does the Commission intend to consider the creation of a European Island Fund as part of the new MFF 2028-2034, in the context of the upcoming European strategy for islands, in order to ensure the financing of activities only for island regions?
2. How will the Commission ensure support for small-island or dual insularity?

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