

Question for written answer E-004290/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Sericulture in Evros suffers blow due to OPEKEPE delays in aid payments

Sericulture is one of the most traditional and specialised agricultural sectors in Greece, with significant export activity and a historical presence in the Soufli area of the Evros prefecture. Recently, however, dozens of producers have been facing serious financial problems due to delays and errors by OPEKEPE in aid payments. According to press reports and complaints from producers, more than 15 farms have remained unpaid, with the total amount of aid owed amounting to approximately EUR 600 000. This fact is stifling a sector that is already burdened by increased energy and raw material costs, and threatens the continuation of production in a border region that depends on agriculture and the rural economy. Given that this aid is part of EU funding under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), questions arise regarding the correct and timely implementation of European rules and the protection of small producers.

Accordingly:

1. Is the Commission aware of the problems that have emerged in OPEKEPE's payments to the Evros silkworm farmers?
2. What actions does the Commission intend to take to ensure the correct and timely payment of European aid to all beneficiaries?
3. Is the Commission considering the possibility of activating exceptional support measures or controls to protect silkworm farming in areas affected by mismanagement or delays in payments?

Submitted: 2.11.2025