

**Question for written answer E-004343/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Support for Greek olive producers in Crete affected by water shortage and pest attacks

Over the last three years, olive production in Crete, and especially in Lasithi, has suffered an unprecedented decline, reaching up to ninety per cent in some areas, due to prolonged water shortages, high temperatures and repeated attacks by the olive bark beetle. This development threatens the viability of producers, the local economy and the survival of one of the most emblematic products of the Mediterranean diet. Despite the gravity of the situation and repeated calls for support by local producers, Greece has not yet activated the prescribed European financial instruments.

Under current EU regulations, Member States may grant aid to farmers or groups of producers affected by natural disasters, adverse weather conditions or pests - possibilities that are also confirmed in the new framework of the common agricultural policy (CAP).

Accordingly:

1. Has the Commission received a request from the Greek authorities to activate the relevant provisions to support olive producers in Crete?
2. If not, does the Commission intend to provide technical and administrative support to activate the available financial instruments to restore damage caused by water shortage, drought and pests?
3. How does the Commission intend to ensure that olive producers in Greece are treated equally to those in other Mediterranean Member States that have already activated similar support schemes due to drought and disease?

Submitted: 4.11.2025