

Question for written answer E-004344/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Delay in the payment of de minimis aid to affected fishers in the Pagasetic Gulf following the pollution incident of August 2024

In August 2024, the Pagasetic Gulf was affected by an extensive pollution incident, which caused mass fish mortality and serious financial damage to professional fishers in Magnesia. Despite the announcement of compensation by the Greek Government in November 2024 and the publication of the relevant Joint Ministerial Decision (Government Gazette B' 1927/23.04.2025) regarding de minimis aid of EUR 1.1 million, the process of submitting applications and paying the amounts has not yet started.

The delay of many months is affecting the viability of small coastal communities, undermining the social fabric and the just transition objectives promoted by the EU in the fisheries sector.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider that the delays of more than six months in activating de minimis aid are consistent with the objectives of rapid compensation provided for in the EU fisheries framework (Regulation (EU) No 717/2014)?
2. How does the Commission intend to ensure that support measures for fishers affected by environmental phenomena, such as the pollution of the Pagasetic Gulf, are activated in a timely and adequate manner, in order to protect social cohesion and regional development?
3. Given that what happened in the Pagasetic Gulf has been classified as a major environmental incident, can the Commission indicate whether there is any possibility of supporting the affected fishers through European funds in addition to national de minimis aid?

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