

**Question for written answer E-004562/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Crete's earthquake-stricken areas not included in 'Exoikonomo 2025' programme or in RePowerEU measures

The earthquake that hit the regional unit of Heraklion on 27 September 2021 caused major destruction, leaving behind extensive damage to homes and infrastructure. Although three years have passed, restoration efforts are progressing slowly: residents continue to live in unsuitable buildings, housing application approvals remain minimal, rent subsidies are delayed by up to 15 months, dangerous structures have still not been demolished, while seizure notices have been issued and primary residences are being auctioned off.

At the same time, the areas affected by the earthquake have not been included in the 'Exoikonomo 2025' programme, nor have they benefited from the tools under RePowerEU, unlike other affected areas in Greece which have taken special support measures. This unequal treatment raises a serious question of whether it is compatible with the principle of territorial cohesion laid down in Article 174 TFEU and with the obligation to ensure that all citizens have equal access to natural disaster recovery measures.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is the exclusion of Crete's earthquake-stricken areas from the 'Exoikonomo 2025' programme and RePowerEU measures compatible with the principle of territorial cohesion and equal treatment?
2. Will it investigate the reasons why Greece did not include these areas in the energy upgrading measures taken for other areas affected by similar natural disasters?
3. Does the Commission intend to call on Greece to take immediate corrective measures to ensure that Crete's earthquake-stricken areas are included in the appropriate restoration and energy upgrading programmes?

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