

**Question for written answer E-004630/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: Improving the use of European support by small Greek villages

Greece has hundreds of small villages with significant cultural, architectural and environmental value, which are however facing demographic decline and insufficient local development. For instance: Paparousi (Evrytania), Dilofo and Vitsa (Zagori), Agios Germanos (Prespes), Kapi (Lesvos), Kastanies (Xanthi), Palaios Agios Athanasios (Pella), Vlasti (Kozani), Vradeto (Epirus), Palaio Eleftherochori (Aetolia-Acarnania).

The current programming period 2021–2027 offers a series of tools that can support such communities: EAFRD for mountainous and disadvantaged areas, LEADER/CLLD for local initiatives, ERDF through regional programmes, Interreg for cultural and natural routes, as well as Creative Europe for cultural heritage activities.

The Commission, in its letter of observations on the Greek CAP Strategic Plan (2022), highlights the need to strengthen the participation of small communities and improve technical support mechanisms, while European reports (AEIDL 2023) note that initiatives for ‘Smart Villages’ are still at an early stage of implementation in Greece.

The Commission is asked:

1. Which tools of the 2021–2027 period can best be used by small Greek villages to upgrade traditional infrastructure and develop soft tourism?
2. Does the Commission intend to strengthen technical assistance so that small communities can participate effectively in LEADER, Interreg and CAP activities?
3. Will the Commission consider specific instructions to Member States to ensure equal access of small traditional settlements to available resources?

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