

Question for written answer E-004917/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Kostas Papadakis (NI)

Subject: Immediate compensation for those affected by recent storms and the responsibility of the EU and national governments for the tragic lack of infrastructure and civil protection

The recent devastating floods in Epirus, Corfu, Attica and other places have shone a spotlight on EU's cost-benefit strategy's impact on civil protection. The strategy has been closely followed by the Nea Demokratia Government, as well as its predecessors.

Directive 2007/60/EC sets out that 'excessive costs' for flood defences in 'thinly populated' areas or in areas with 'limited economic assets' should be avoided.

Attica, which is neither 'thinly populated' nor with 'limited economic assets', has been affected by flooding in a number of areas, while a water scarcity emergency has just been declared in the region!

In Epirus and Corfu, the risks have been known for decades and the infrastructure is completely outdated.

On the basis of the above, can the Commission say:

1. What view does it take of the request for 100 % compensation for those affected and for the immediate restoration of the major infrastructure damage in Epirus and Corfu, without the unacceptable terms and well-known 'cut-off mechanisms' of the Solidarity Fund, relating to the exclusion of private compensation and to 'partial' infrastructure restoration?
2. What view does it take of the fact that Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks leads to essential infrastructure projects for flood protection not being prioritised due to low 'returns' for business groups?
3. What view does it take of the fact that necessary flood defences are being abandoned, as seen with their removal from the Recovery Fund for Greece, a situation that will continue with the EU's shift towards a war economy and the prioritisation of funding for infrastructure serving military preparedness at the expense of the immediate need to protect the lives and property of ordinary people?

Submitted: 11.12.2025