

**Question for written answer E-000133/2026/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)**

Subject: Recurrent power cuts in mountainous communities of Arta and the Acheloos valley: degradation of basic infrastructure – rural desertification

For three days now, villages in mountainous areas of Arta, in the municipality of Karaiskakis and more broadly in the Acheloos valley have been left without electricity, with a considerable impact on the daily lives of inhabitants, the functioning of basic services and the local economy.

The electricity grid in these areas is marked by serious obsolescence: old and dangerous utility poles, broken networks, cut cables and a years-long lack of systematic maintenance. Nonetheless, Public Power Cooperation workers are striving to remedy the problems, under particularly difficult conditions.

The failure to ensure a reliable and continuous electricity supply in mountainous and remote areas, such as the Acheloos valley, is not merely a technical problem. It has a negative impact on quality of life, drives residents to move away, harms agricultural activity and fuels feelings of abandonment, directly contributing to rural desertification and demographic decline – contrary to the EU's objectives of social cohesion, territorial convergence and adaptation to the climate crisis.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. How does it assess the adequacy and resilience of electricity networks in mountainous areas of Greece, in the context of climate change and the increase in extreme weather events?
2. Does it intend to encourage Member States to include rural energy security as a critical pillar of strategies to address desertification and population decline?

Submitted: 14.1.2026