

**Question for written answer E-000581/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Institutional gaps in the collection and storage of surface water for irrigation in water-scarce areas of Greece

Climate change is exacerbating water scarcity in Southern Europe and especially in the Mediterranean, with serious impacts on agricultural production, food security and the social cohesion of rural areas. In Greece, water shortages are exacerbated by the over-pumping of groundwater aquifers, increased seasonal consumption due to tourism and the absence of a clear and proportionate institutional framework for the collection and storage of surface and rainwater. Despite the fact that during winter periods significant quantities of water flow unexploited to the sea, small and medium-scale projects, such as irrigation reservoirs, face serious administrative and legal obstacles, as they are often equated with large hydraulic projects.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission assess the lack of a clear, operational and proportionate institutional framework in some Member States, such as Greece, for small-scale projects for the collection and storage of surface and rainwater for irrigation use, in particular in water-scarce areas?
2. Does the Commission consider that institutional simplification of such projects, while ensuring the minimum ecological supply and the protection of bodies of water, is consistent with Directive 2000/60/EC and the objectives of European policy on adaptation to climate change?
3. Does the Commission intend to issue guidelines or recommendations and to strengthen the financing of small irrigation reservoirs through the common agricultural policy, the Recovery Fund or other European instruments, while promoting pilot schemes in water-scarce areas?

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