

Question for written answer E-000584/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Use of European funds in island regions and respect for the principle of no significant harm

Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union requires the Union to pay particular attention to island regions due to their permanent geographical disadvantages. At the same time, Regulations (EU) 2019/2088 and 2020/852 make the principle of ‘no significant harm’ (DNSH) mandatory for investments financed by EU funds, including the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

In Greece, especially in island regions, large tourism investments, characterised as ‘strategic’, are being implemented, exceeding the carrying capacity of the islands, putting a strain on critical water resources, intensifying overtourism and leading to serious degradation of the landscape and biodiversity. Water scarcity is often addressed by energy-intensive desalination processes that rely on polluting energy sources. At the same time, the location of industrial-scale RES on islands with limited space and sensitive ecosystems is promoted, without integrated overarching spatial and environmental planning and without the substantive participation of local communities, creating cumulative impacts that call into question compliance with the DNSH principle.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission ensure the effective application of the DNSH principle in investments implemented in island areas?
2. Does the Commission consider that the financing of large-scale tourism investments on islands that have exceeded their carrying capacity is consistent with the environmental and social objectives of the Union?
3. Does the Commission intend to strengthen the monitoring of the application of the insularity principle when approving and implementing co-financed projects?

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