

Question for written answer E-000711/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Kostas Papadakis (NI)

Subject: The acute problems faced by earthquake victims in Arkalochori, Crete

Four and a half years on from the devastating earthquake in Arkalochori, Crete, residents' problems persist and the Nea Dimokratia Government and the EU guidelines bear responsibility for this.

At least 150 families still live in containers and as many again live in dangerous homes. The three local schools have been deemed unsafe, there have been delays in the payment of much of the compensation, while some payments never materialised.

The Commission's reply to the request to mobilise the 'Solidarity Fund' was again that private compensation is not eligible.

The appalling situation that exists presently is the result of the EU's cost-benefit principle, which treats infrastructure, protection and restoration projects as a cost.

Instead, corporate group business ventures built on the ruins left behind by the earthquake are considered eligible, as long as they guarantee profit, and are fast-tracked accordingly.

In view of the above:

1. What is the Commission's position regarding requests from Arkalochori's residents and the local earthquake victims' association for immediate and full compensation, for an end to all auctions and the cancellation of auctions that have already taken place, and for completion of the demolition of all dangerous and dilapidated buildings, without burdening the earthquake victims?
2. What is the Commission's position regarding the fact that EU policy, with its cost-benefit criterion, leaves people unprotected, both before and after natural disasters, resulting in compensation and infrastructure restoration being 'ineligible' – the clearest example being the three schools in Arkalochori –, while priority is given to infrastructure that facilitates war readiness, on which a fortune is spent, with dangerous developments in store for the people?

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