

**Question for written answer E-000724/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)

Subject: Understaffing of Aegean forest services and risk of island regions losing EU funding

According to an official memorandum from the Municipality of Tilos, there is evidence of serious and persistent understaffing of the Aegean forest services, which directly affects the environmental licensing of projects, the management of forest maps, fire prevention and the protection of biodiversity. The impossibility of offering an on-the ground presence and providing technical support to small islands, such as Tilos, causes delays in projects co-financed by the Cohesion Funds, the Recovery Fund and LIFE programmes, with the risk of funding being lost. At the same time, the constitutional principle of insularity and the EU principle of territorial cohesion require specially adapted staffing policies for areas with spatial discontinuity.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. How does it ensure that Member States' island regions have sufficient administrative and scientific capacity to properly absorb and implement environmental EU funds?
2. Does it intend to establish specific administrative capacity indicators for island forest services, as a condition for funding?
3. Can it deploy targeted technical assistance or specific support tools for Aegean forest services to prevent administrative weakening in peripheral areas?

Submitted: 20.2.2026