

**Question for written answer E-001216/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Failure of the Mavromati customs office to function properly and impact on cross-border economic activity

According to recent complaints from Igoumenitsa's Traders and Craftspeople Association, the Mavromati customs office, the main gateway between Greece and Albania, has, for a long time now, faced major operational problems due to understaffing, limited opening hours and significant delays in checks.

This situation has already had a negative impact on the local economy of Thesprotia, with a decrease in footfall, a loss of turnover for small businesses and difficulties in the cross-border mobility of citizens and goods, including members of the Greek minority in southern Albania.

Given that the proper functioning of crossing points at the EU's external borders is crucial for economic cohesion, regional development and trade facilitation, can the Commission answer the following:

1. How does it rate the functioning of border posts between Member States and non-EU countries, such as the Mavromati customs office, with regard to the adequacy of staff and the effectiveness of checks?
2. Are there any available European funding tools (e.g. Integrated Border Management Fund, Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, or others) that can be used to reinforce staffing and modernise infrastructure and procedures?
3. Does it intend to examine, in cooperation with the Greek authorities, measures to improve cross-border mobility and economic activity in border regions such as Thesprotia?

Submitted: 24.3.2026