

Question for written answer E-001594/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Kostas Papadakis (NI)

Subject: Obsolete infrastructure leaves farmers in Kopaida without water for their crops

Kopaida is one of Greece's most fertile areas, with enormous production potential. Nonetheless, it faces an acute irrigation problem as a result of a chronic lack and obsolescence of infrastructure. This situation is born of a policy that treats water as a commodity.

Water levels at Lake Yliki remain at historical lows, making it impossible to extract water using existing, outdated infrastructure. The failure to repair the necessary floating pumping station, which would allow pumping from greater depths, leaves farmers exposed to water scarcity.

This issue is inextricably linked to the overall policy followed by the EU and the national government, which – through the Regulatory Authority for Waste, Energy and Water (RAAEY) – promotes the commercialisation of water.

The dismantling of Local Land Improvement Organisations (TOEB) and the imposition of 'cost recovery' (as piloted through the Water Management Organisation in Thessaly) lead to excessive pricing and further deterioration of public land improvement works, sending production costs through the roof.

In view of the above:

1. What view does the Commission take of the unacceptable fact that farmers are deprived of water for their crops because irrigation infrastructure is deemed 'ineligible' or 'costly' on the basis of EU cost-benefit criteria, at a time when 'green' investments by corporate groups (e.g. in wind turbines and photovoltaics) are being heavily subsidised?
2. What view does the Commission take of the need for specific measures to fully and immediately compensate farmers in Kopaida for the loss of their income, waiving the restrictions in the 'State aid' regulations that prevent the effective protection of ordinary households?

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