

**Question for written answer E-003558/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Lignite phase-out in Western Macedonia and its damaging consequences for the people

In recent days, the Greek Prime Minister visited businesses in Western Macedonia, such as greenhouse and district heating projects which are underway following the closure of lignite-fired power plants.

The Nea Dimokratia Government made an insulting promise to make up for a fraction of the jobs lost. The blasting of lignite excavators was an emblematic snapshot of the criminal lignite phase-out and there is still more to come. New investment, which has meant that corporate groups have been enjoying generous subsidies paid out by the Recovery and Resilience Facility, has called into question a system that had consistently provided local towns and cities with heating for decades.

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

1. What view does it take of the fact that, with its ‘just transition’ programmes and generous RRF funding, the EU has financed a plan that has had disastrous consequences for the people in the light of the lignite phase-out, worsening energy poverty and unemployment, since the new jobs do not even come close to replacing the ones lost, while energy prices continue to skyrocket, with monopolistic corporate groups emerging as the only winners?
2. What view does the Commission take of the people’s legitimate demand, in support of local trade unions and grassroots organisations, not only for lignite power stations and mines to remain open, but also for compensation to be given for the damage and adverse consequences they have faced and for the stations and mines to reopen after receiving an environmental upgrade, for the abolition of harmful trade in pollutants and the abolition of the energy exchange, all of which is unsustainable for the people in the context of the EU’s ‘green’ strategy, which leaves ordinary people in a serious predicament and plunges them into energy poverty?

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