

**Question for written answer E-003911/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Elena Kountoura (The Left)

Subject: Implementation of European legislation and use of European funds to restore Lake Koroneia in light of the current ecological disaster

The National Observatory of Athens recently published an analysis showing that Lake Koroneia has lost around 94 % of its original surface area¹.

The lake is protected by the Ramsar Convention and the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) and is part of the Natura 2000 network, designated as a Special Area of Conservation (GR1220001) and a Special Protection Area (GR1220009), under the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC).

The current ecological disaster raises serious questions about the effectiveness of government planning, the coordination of interventions and the adequacy of control and accountability mechanisms.

Bearing in mind that the CJEU has previously condemned Greece for failing to take appropriate action to avert an ecological disaster², and that Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 obliges Member States to submit draft national restoration plans by 1 September 2026³, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is it aware of the ecological destruction of Lake Koroneia and what steps will it take to ensure that Greece complies with European legislation on water protection, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration?
2. Has it asked the Greek authorities for information on the implementation of the measures for the management and restoration of the lake as well as information on the use of the European funds allocated for this purpose?
3. Has it received the Greek national plan for the lake's restoration and what measures, timeframes and sources of funding are envisaged for the restoration?

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¹ More specifically, according to official data and Sentinel-2/Copernicus data, Lake Koroneia, once the fifth largest lake in Greece, with an area of 42.8 km², has now shrunk to 2.7 km² (<https://www.tovima.com/society/lake-koroneia-has-lost-94-of-its-water-area/>).

² The CJEU ruled in 2013 that Greece had not taken sufficient measures to prevent the deterioration of the natural habitats for which the Special Protection Area (SPA) status was granted. Furthermore, with regard to the infringement of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, the CJEU pointed out that the urban waste water collection and treatment system was not implemented within the prescribed period (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_11_89 and <https://www.tovima.gr/2013/02/07/society/katadiki-apo-to-eyrwpaiiko-dikastirio-gia-tin-koroneia/>).

³ See Article 16 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 on nature restoration (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1991/oj/eng>).