Priority question for written answer P-001680/2024
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Millions of dead fish in the Pagasetic Gulf as a result of inaction by the relevant Greek authorities

In March 2024, the European Commission decided to refer Greece (INFR(2022)2191) to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) for failing to finalise the revision of its river basin management and flood risk management plans (see relevant Directives 2000/60/EC and 2007/60/EC respectively)[1].

At the end of August 2024, more than 100 tonnes of dead freshwater fish from Lake Karla, a man-made lake near Volos, were found in the Pagasetic Gulf in the regional unit of Magnesia[2]. This has had serious implications for the environment and health in the Pagasetic Gulf area, which already faces ecological pressures. The exact causes of this environmental crime have not yet been investigated and those responsible have not been held to account.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission intend to investigate to what extent the relevant Greek authorities are to blame for the aforementioned incident in Lake Karla?

2. Does the Commission consider that Greece has made progress in the area of water management within the framework of the above-mentioned directives following the country's referral to the CJEU? If so, what progress has it made?

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[1] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_24_1235
[2] https://www.dw.com/en/mass-fish-die-off-in-greece-the-search-for-answers-has-begun/a-70119244