

EN

E-001409/2024

Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.9.2024)

1. The Greek Rural Development Programme 2014-2022¹ and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan 2023-2027 (CSP)² provide support for investments to restore agricultural and forestry potential following natural disasters, adverse climatic or catastrophic events. It is up to the Managing Authorities to allocate funding for such needs.

Support for damages may also be provided by the Hellenic Agricultural Insurance Organisation (ELGA)³. The Greek CSP includes possibilities for support for insurance of certain risks not covered by the ELGA insurance.

At the end of 2023, the Commission provided an additional exceptional funding of EUR 43 million through the agricultural crisis reserve⁴. These funds were paid to farmers around lake Karla by the end of May 2024.

Through the 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy funding, some EUR 150 million (public expenditure) have been allocated for relief measures for households and small and medium-sized enterprises affected by the flood in the area, and some EUR 13 million (public expenditure) for aid to maintain workers' employment and to adapt workers and enterprises to change.

2. It is important that the scarce water sources are not over exploited to ensure long term access of farmers to water. The Water Framework Directive⁵ requires Member States to ensure that water-pricing policies provide adequate incentives to use water efficiently and an adequate contribution of the different water uses, (at least industry, households and agriculture), to the recovery of the water services' costs while taking account of the polluter pays principle. In so doing Member States can take into account the social, environmental and economic effects of the recovery and the geographic and climatic conditions of the regions affected.

3. CSP support is offered to help farmers improve their competitiveness, resilience and sustainability. This may involve land use changes. Apart from basic income support, Greece also provides coupled income support for some sectors that face difficulties and are important for socio-economic and/or environmental reasons⁶.

¹ <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/metra-paa-pages/ependytika-epicheirimatika/>

² <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/category/sskap-2023-2027/sskap-egkrisi-tropopoiiseis/>

³ <https://elga.gr/>

⁴ OJ L, 2023/2820, 18.12.2023.

⁵ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1–73, as amended by Commission Directive 2014/101/EU of 30 October 2014, OJ L 311, 31.10.2014, p. 32–35.

⁶ <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/parembaseis-sskap-pa/ameses-enischyseis/syndedemeni-eisodimatiki-stirixi-32/>