

EN
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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
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To help Member States to cope with droughts and water scarcity, the EU provides co-funding for sustainable water management, water resource conservation and water infrastructures including for nature-based solutions to increase water retention for drought risk mitigation. The EU also helps Member States to improve their drought management by bringing experts together in a Network of European Drought Observatories¹ and in the Common Implementation Strategy Working Group on Water Scarcity and Droughts. The Copernicus European Drought Observatory is helping Greece to set up a drought observatory in Athens.

Between 2021 and 2027, ca. EUR 13 billion of Cohesion Policy funds² will be invested in water management infrastructures. More than EUR 4 billion will be invested for the prevention of storms and droughts across the EU. Of these funds EUR 541 million will be invested in Greece's water infrastructures (drinking water), EUR 85 million in water management and resource conservation³. The Common Agricultural Policy⁴ funds soil improvements on 36.5% of Greece's agricultural area⁵, more efficient irrigation and water reuse, as well as more climate resilient crops. Horizon Europe⁶ supports water resilience and sustainable water management inter alia through its Missions and Partnerships⁷.

The announced European Water Resilience Strategy⁸ will further strengthen all of these initiatives to support Europe's water resilience for competitiveness, for food and energy security, human health and the environment.

¹ <https://drought.emergency.copernicus.eu/>

² <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/stories/s/21-27-Sustainable-water-management/ehce-gj6d>

³ https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/2021-2027-Categorisation/Water_2/2aig-bg4c

⁴ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy_en

⁵ Greece's Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy (2023-2027) – 36.5% of the utilised agricultural area will receive support (under eco-schemes and agri-environment climate interventions) for practices beneficial for soil management to improve soil quality and biota.

⁶ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

⁷ Of particular relevance are the partnerships 'Water Security for the Planet' (<https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/>), the Partnership on Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA, <https://prima-med.org/>) together with the Missions 'Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030' (https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/restore-our-ocean-and-waters_en), 'Adaptation to Climate Change' (https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/adaptation-climate-change_en) and 'A Soil Deal for Europe' (https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/soil-deal-europe_en#what-are-eu-missions).

⁸ President of the Commission's Political Guidelines 2024-2029: https://commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/towards-new-commission-2024-2029_en