

EN

E-001855/2024

Answer given by Ms Ferreira
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.11.2024)

As indicated in the reply provided to the written question E-003237/2023¹, in November 2023, Greece requested EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF) assistance for the storm ‘Daniel’ to cover part of the costs for emergency and recovery operations incurred by public authorities²³. The Commission approved the application, paying an advance of EUR 25.4 million in February 2024, with a balance of EUR 76.1 million due by year-end. Private damage is not eligible. Greece has not applied for EUSF assistance for the ecological catastrophe resulting in masses of dead fish appearing in the Pagasetic Gulf.

Greece’s Recovery and Resilience Plan⁴ supports the restoration of the damages to Thessaly’s road and railway network affected by storm ‘Daniel’ including the tourist train line of Pelion.

For the 2021-2027 period, Greece benefits from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to promote business development and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)’ support including the Greek tourism ecosystem. Indicatively, under the ‘Competitiveness’⁵ programme, a funding call aimed at strengthening the establishment and operation of new tourism SMEs has been launched, with a budget of EUR 160 million⁶.

However, compensation of businesses due to loss of revenues is not eligible for co-financing. In accordance with ERDF Regulation⁷, the fund can support productive investments in SMEs and investments aiming at safeguarding existing jobs and creating new jobs.

In order to support resilient tourism, to help stakeholders to be better prepared, prevent and manage crisis, including natural disasters, the Commission under the Crisis management and governance in tourism project⁸, provided with digital learning models⁹, best practices and policy recommendations.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-003237-ASW_EN.html

² For example, the recovery of essential infrastructure, provision of temporary accommodation to the population, cleaning-up operations, and protection of the cultural heritage.

³ All amounts of this reply refer to public expenditure.

⁴ Greece’s recovery and resilience plan: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en

⁵ <https://21-27.antagonistikotita.gr/>

⁶ <https://21-27.antagonistikotita.gr/enischysi-tis-idrysis-kai-leitourgias-neon-mikromesaion-touristikon-epicheiriseon-2/>

⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund.

⁸ Crisis Management and Governance in Tourism: https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/crisis-management-and-governance-tourism_en

⁹ <https://academy.europa.eu/courses/crisis-management-and-governance-in-tourism>