

EN

E-002178/2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.12.2024)

1. As the Commission pointed out in its answers to the written questions E-2006/24¹, E-1855/24², E-1908/24³, the selection and implementation of projects fall under the responsibility of the Member State.

Under the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 programming period, following Greece's request, the programmes 'Transport Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainable Development' and 'Competitiveness Entrepreneurship and Innovation' have been modified to support the areas affected by storm Daniel.

Furthermore, under the 2021-2027 programming period, support is provided by the European Regional Development Fund to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Greece, including in tourism.

Under the State aid rules, it is possible to set up an aid scheme to address the damage caused by a natural disaster, such as a flood, notably in line with Article 50 of the General Block Exemption Regulation⁴.

2. Member States are free to design their direct tax systems, including how to determine the tax base and tax rates as well as appropriate incentives and tax breaks for taxpayers, as long as they respect primary and secondary EU law. Such policies must be designed carefully taking into account effectiveness, fairness, their fiscal impact and with minimal compliance costs.

3. Greece's Recovery and Resilience Plan⁵ supports the restoration of the damages to Thessaly's Road and railway network affected by storm Daniel including the tourist train line of Pelion.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-002006_EN.html

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-001855_EN.html

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-001908_EN.html

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32014R0651>

⁵ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en