

EN
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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) offers possibilities for interventions for land development projects, similar to the Achyra dam project, through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The Greek CAP Strategic Plan¹ does foresee relevant investment interventions, including projects in irrigation. It finances land projects aiming primarily at increasing the efficiency of water use in agriculture, through interventions, such as reservoirs, dams, ponds etc., and the modernisation of irrigation networks.

Based on the principles of shared management applicable to the CAP, the project approval process falls under the responsibility of the Member States, and, hence, the Commission does not have information on individual submitted applications. In accordance with the Greek CAP Strategic Plan, the eligible beneficiaries may be the Ministry of Rural Development & Food, and other Ministries or the local government (A' or B' level).

Energy storage technologies, including pumped hydropower storage, are key for the clean energy transition, to better integrate variable renewables in the electricity system and reduce overall energy system costs. The Commission incentivises the use of energy storage through its recommendations on energy storage². Member States are required to establish indicative national objectives for non-fossil flexibility, including demand response and storage, under the revised Electricity Regulation³.

Although the Commission follows a technology neutral approach regarding storage solutions, leaving investment decisions to the market, it recognises the potential of hydropower storage in contributing to the flexibility of the energy system.

¹ <http://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/el/keimeno-synimmena-paa/egkrisi-tropopoiiseis>

² [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32023H0320\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32023H0320(01))

³ Article 19f of Regulation (EU) 2024/1747 amending Regulations (EU) 2019/942 and (EU) 2019/943
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202401747