

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000149/25  
to the Commission  
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)  
(15 January 2025)**

*Subject:* Delays in the payment of compensatory fees from hydroelectric projects in Greece

According to the Ministerial Decision (Government Gazette 4844/22.08.2024) issued by the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, renewable energy and hybrid plants are to pay a special fee of 3% to local communities. This money goes towards local development and consumer relief.

However, the decision has not been implemented retroactively from 2022, despite the fact that the relevant law (4964/2022) had been adopted from that same year. In addition, it should be noted that provision has been made for producers to be removed from the RES plant register if they fail to make these payments on time. And yet, these payments have been delayed, which forms the subject of a long-standing appeal from local communities and bodies, such as the Technical Chamber of Greece and other local bodies, with reference made to the Kremasta Hydroelectric Plant in particular.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is it aware of the delays in the payment of compensatory fees from hydroelectric projects in Greece, in particular in relation to the Kremasta Hydroelectric Plant?
2. Does it not consider that the non-retroactive application of the Ministerial Decision violates the principles of equal treatment and fair allocation of resources to local communities affected by hydroelectric projects?
3. Does it intend to look into the possibility of establishing a uniform framework for the payment of compensatory fees in Member States, with a view to ensuring timely and fair compensation for local communities hosting hydroelectric RES projects?

Submitted: 15.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission  
(25 February 2025)**

The Commission takes note of the information provided on the situation in Greece. The imposition of compensatory (reciprocal) fees could be one way to consider the needs of local population and share the benefits of the green transition.

Moreover, Article 15d (2) of the revised Renewable Energy Directive <sup>(1)</sup>, with transposition deadline on 21 May 2025, obliges Member States to adopt measures to promote public acceptance of renewable energy projects by means of direct and indirect participation of local communities in those projects.

The application of compensatory (reciprocal) fees, depends on the specific rules in the relevant national legislation. Non or incorrect application of national legislation must be brought up and decided before national courts.

Given the need to adjust to national and local circumstances, a ‘one size fits all’ solution has not been identified in this area.

The Commission will continue to promote the exchange of best practices among Member States, including via the upcoming Citizens Energy Package and engagement in regional high-level groups <sup>(2)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Directive (EU) 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652 (OJ L, 2023/24, 31.10.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/2413/oj>).

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/infrastructure/high-level-groups\\_en](https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/infrastructure/high-level-groups_en)