

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000271/25
to the Commission
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)
(22 January 2025)**

Subject: Flood prevention works in East Macedonia and Thrace

The funds which Greek regions — in particular the region of East Macedonia and Thrace — are entitled to for flood prevention projects depend on a number of parameters, such as European Union programmes, national budgets and local flood protection needs. Fund allocation depends on how serious the problems are and the estimated risk in each region. Each region can submit funding proposals through their respective regional administrations. These proposals are based on the estimated flood risk, the region's development strategy and infrastructure needs.

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

Does the Cohesion Fund finance projects relating to environmental protection and sustainable development in less developed EU regions, such as East Macedonia and Thrace, which have many infrastructure needs, such as water containment and drainage projects?

Submitted: 22.1.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(8 April 2025)**

The Cohesion Fund provides financial support to Member States whose gross national income per capita is below 90% of the EU-27 average ⁽¹⁾. Accordingly, Greece is a beneficiary of the Cohesion Fund, with a total EU allocation of EUR 2.9 billion at national level.

In accordance with EU Regulation 2021/1058 ⁽²⁾, the Cohesion Fund supports investments in the environmental sector, including initiatives aimed at promoting climate change adaptation, disaster risk prevention and resilience.

Consequently, the Cohesion Fund can support environmental projects in the region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace. Such actions could also be supported by the European Regional Development Fund.

Cohesion Policy Funds operate under a shared management framework between the Commission and the national and regional authorities of the Member States who are therefore responsible for selecting projects for funding and overseeing their implementation.

In addition, Greece's recovery and resilience plan ⁽³⁾ invests in anti-erosion and flood protection in Evros and Rhodope in response to the floods and wildfires in 2023 (measure 16849).

The related interventions include the construction of dams, stream stabilisation structures and rainwater retention systems, with the aim to improve soil retention, biodiversity conservation and agricultural production.

By end-2025, a total area of 175 000 square meters of flood protection works is expected to be completed.

⁽¹⁾ Article 177 of the <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT:en:PDF>

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R1058>

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en