

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001597/25
to the Commission
Georgios Aftias (PPE)
(22 April 2025)**

Subject: Support for the Ionian Islands in relation to landslides

Coastal areas in the European Union are in a vulnerable and dynamic situation due to human intervention and natural processes, which change their morphology, but also due to the advantages they bring at a social and economic level. They are greatly affected by coastal soil erosion, as well as by wave activity. The Ionian Islands contribute significantly to trade, transport and tourism, offering a huge range of economic development and professional activity to Greek society.

According to a report by the Region of the Ionian Islands, signed by the Regional Governor, Mr Ioannis Trepekis, after long-term research and studies it has been established that the Ionian Islands region is particularly vulnerable to coastal erosion and the most prone to ongoing and strong seismic vibrations worldwide. The islands of Corfu, Kefalonia, Zakynthos and Lefkada are mentioned. The Ionian Islands Region is raising this issue with urgency, as solving the problem also requires immediate European intervention.

In view of the above:

1. Will the Commission support the strengthening of the resilience of coastal areas with all financial means?
2. Will the Commission finance national initiatives that contribute to the protection of the inhabitants of coastal areas from the effects caused by soil erosion?

Submitted: 22.4.2025

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

Based on their national or subnational climate risk assessments, Member States can use Cohesion Policy to support disaster risk management, particularly by financing prevention, response and resilience measures in islands or coastal areas. This may also include measures to address soil erosion.

Specifically for Greece, over EUR 726 million in public funding is allocated to prevent and manage climate-related flood risks, including coastal and land erosion management. Under the shared management principle governing these funds, national authorities are responsible for selecting projects for funding and overseeing their implementation.

Furthermore, Greece's Recovery and Resilience Plan ⁽¹⁾ invests in anti-erosion and flood protection across Greece 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 5 000 hectares of anti-erosion works and 175 000 square meters of flood protection works is expected to be completed.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en.