

EN

E-001661/2025

Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.7.2025)

1. The Commission acknowledges the importance of improving transport connectivity in remote and mountainous areas such as those between Arta and Karditsa. Enhancing accessibility in such regions can contribute to addressing demographic decline, fostering economic development, and promoting social and territorial cohesion - which is central to EU regional policy.

2. Sections of the Arta–Karditsa route on the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) could be eligible for EU funding under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). However, the envelope for the current financing period has been exhausted with the completion of the 2024 CEF call. Under the Commission's proposal for 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework, transport investments will follow a new structure that includes a revamped CEF for Transport with a provisional budget of EUR 51.5 billion. Investments may also be supported through national envelopes. Until the next budget is adopted and priorities defined, such projects could for now also be financed under the cohesion policy funds.

3. The Commission supports investment in remote and mountainous regions under the 'Europe closer to citizens' policy objective of Cohesion Policy. The 2021–2027 Partnership Agreement between the Commission and Greece includes priorities to improve accessibility and connectivity, promote local entrepreneurship, circular and blue economy, advance the green and digital transitions, and enhance the quality of life in rural and less-developed areas. The Commission will continue to work with national and regional authorities to ensure that available EU funds contribute to infrastructure projects that promote social cohesion, economic resilience and the green transition in such areas.