

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001989/25
to the Commission
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)
(17 May 2025)**

Subject: Delays in restoring fire-ravaged northern Evia

Following the devastating fires of August 2021 in northern Evia, the European Union activated support mechanisms for the restoration of the affected areas and, in particular, the Technical Support Instrument of the Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM), to finance the project 'Post-fire biodiversity and biotic natural capital recovery: Framework development in the case of Evia', ⁽¹⁾ with the aim of monitoring and restoring the biodiversity and natural capital of the region.

In addition, the Region of Central Greece approved a budget of EUR 40 million for flood protection and infrastructure restoration projects in the affected areas of northern Evia, such as Mantoudi, Limni, Agia Anna and Istiaia-Edipsos. ⁽²⁾

In view of the above:

1. What is the progress of the restoration projects in northern Evia financed by European funds, such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and the NSRF?
2. How does the Commission ensure the effective absorption of European funds and the achievement of the remediation and sustainable development objectives in the region?
3. Are there provisions for additional financial support or technical assistance from the EU to strengthen the resilience of northern Evia against future natural disasters?

Submitted: 17.5.2025

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

Greece's recovery and resilience plan (RRP) ⁽¹⁾ supports reforestation in response to the 2021 wildfires by investing in tree planting, erosion control and sustainable forest management (measure 16849).

The aim is to restore forest ecosystems, protect biodiversity, regulate carbon emissions, enhance human infrastructure and create job opportunities.

The RRP indicates a total area of 5 700 hectares of degraded forest ecosystems in Attica, Thessaloniki and North Evia to be restored by the end of 2025.

Under the regional programme 'Sterea Ellada', cohesion policy finances flood protection measures, including in the wildfire-affected area ⁽²⁾ at the north of Evia.

In addition, an integrated territorial investment (ITI) of Northern Evia is planned for the reconstruction of the municipalities of Istiaia-Edipsos and Mantoudi-Limni-Agia Anna ⁽³⁾.

This ITI has a budget of EUR 13 million, as part of the announced overall reconstruction plan for Northern Evia. The ITI was approved on 24 July 2025.

To ensure the successful implementation of the recovery and resilience facility (RRF), the RRP for each Member State includes milestones and targets, which the Commission assesses to authorise payments.

In addition, the RRF provides the flexibility to upscale measures in response to changing circumstances. Following the natural disasters that affected Greece over the past years, measure 16849 in Greece's RRP was upscaled by EUR 406 million to invest in anti-flood, anti-erosion and fire-prevention actions across the entire country.

¹ <https://necca.gov.gr/erga/epanakampsi-tis-viopoikilotitas-kai-tou-viotikou-fysikou-kefalaiou-meta-apo-pyrkagies-anaptyxi-tou-plaisiou-gia-tin-periptosi-tis-evvoias/>.

² <https://mediterranean.observer/central-greece-region-40m-for-reconstruction-of-fire-hit-evia/>

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

⁽²⁾ For example, a call for the construction of flood protection works in the region has already been launched, giving priority to the wildfire-affected areas and are included in the Eastern Central Greece flood risk management plan: <https://www.stereaellada.gr/proskliseis/kataskeyi-ergon-antiplimmyrikis-prostasias-nees-praxeis>.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.stereaellada.gr/proskliseis/stratigiki-olokliromenis-horikis-ependysis-ohe-boreias-eyboias>.

Under cohesion policy programmes, the Commission monitors the implementation of EU-funded projects and works closely with the national and regional authorities to ensure effective absorption of funds and address critical delays in the implementation.
