

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002059/25
to the Commission
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)
(22 May 2025)**

Subject: Devastation in the Evros Delta as Turkish dams restrict flow

For the second year in a row, the entry of sea water into the Evros Delta has led to mass deaths of freshwater fish, resulting in the economic collapse of dozens of families of fishermen and breeders. In line with their complaints, the main cause is the closure of the storm dams built by the Turkish authorities on the River Evros, preventing the necessary flow of fresh water into the delta. Despite the fact that authorities have been aware of this phenomenon for years, no substantial support or compensation has been given.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following:

1. Is it aware that Türkiye is restricting the flow of the River Evros by means of unilateral action that is causing serious environmental and economic repercussions in an EU Member State?
2. What measures could it take to help ensure cross-border water management based on international law and good neighbourliness?
3. Are there any EU funding tools to support the affected professional fishermen and breeders in the region, who are suffering the consequences without any state compensation?

Submitted: 22.5.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(11 September 2025)**

1. The Commission is aware that water management of the River Evros between Greece and Türkiye is a complex and politically sensitive issue and that there does not seem to be a bilateral agreement for cross-border water management of the River Evros.
2. Türkiye is not currently a party to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Water Convention. This situation limits the legal and institutional tools available for transboundary water cooperation. The Commission's assessment of the third River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the Thrace River Basin District shows that an Ad Hoc Joint Committee has been established concerning cooperation between Greece and Türkiye on the Evros River and met for the first time in 2010 but the Commission has no evidence of regular meetings since then.
3. There are several EU funding tools and mechanisms that can support professional fishermen and breeders in the Evros Delta who are suffering from the consequences of restricted freshwater flow. The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) ⁽¹⁾ is the primary EU instrument for aiding small-scale coastal fisheries, sustainable aquaculture, and coastal communities affected by environmental or economic shocks. Affected stakeholders are encouraged to engage with their national or regional managing authorities to explore potential funding opportunities and gain access to the support needed.

⁽¹⁾ For 2021-2027: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/funding/emfaf_en.