

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002368/25
to the Commission
Georgios Aftias (PPE)
(12 June 2025)

Subject: Funding Greek ports

For several months of the year, the Aegean and Ionian islands are exposed to extreme weather events and in many cases ships face objective difficulties in approaching. In the winter months, the situation is particularly difficult and often extremely dangerous due to strong winds.

This problem is clearly visible in the port of Karlovasi on the island of Samos, which — as experts have pointed out — remains unprotected from strong northern winds, as an expansion some years ago was left unfinished. According to experts, funding for the port is desperately needed, so that two internal jetties (moles) can be built to protect the port's inner harbour and make it easier for vessels to dock. In the Gulf of Marathokampos in Samos, the southern winds cause major problems for the port's operations, as well as serious problems in terms of the gulf's erosion. The ports requiring direct funding are large in number and can be found in most Aegean islands. Ports in the Ionian Sea, such as in Corfu, Zakynthos and Kefalonia, face similar problems.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Does it intend to provide funding for projects in the ports of the islands, which are key to regional development, so that they can remain fully operational even in extreme weather events?
2. Are there plans to upgrade port infrastructure to make it more resilient?

Submitted: 12.6.2025

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

The EU cohesion policy supports investments in port infrastructure to enhance access to coastal and island regions and strengthen local economies.

In Greece, around EUR 228 million has been allocated to improve port facilities, aiming to boost connectivity and economic growth. Under the shared management principle governing Cohesion Funds, the competent national authorities are responsible for the selection of projects.

The Greek Recovery and Resilience Plan ⁽¹⁾ (RRP) 'Upgrade Interventions for Regional Ports' and 'Tourism Development' measures support significant investments in ports.

The investments funded under RRP are identified by the competent national authorities and include part of the Argostoli port. Within the framework of the Recovery and Resilience Facility ⁽²⁾ (RRF) discussions with the Greek RRF Agency could be envisaged on the possibility of funding investments on additional ports.

Since 2014, the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) has channelled around EUR 3.5 billion into 280 projects enhancing maritime transport, including over EUR 35 million for projects in 11 maritime ports in Greece ⁽³⁾.

With the 2024 CEF call's results ⁽⁴⁾, 95% of the 2021-2027 CEF II budget has already been allocated. Future financing for maritime ports will depend on possible budget reflows as well as on the programming and budget decisions for the new Multiannual Financial Framework.

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

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en.

⁽³⁾ Igoumenitsa, Iraklion, Kavala, Kerkyra, Kyllini, Lavrio (Sounio), Patra, Pireaus, Rafina, Thessaloniki and Volos.

⁽⁴⁾ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/cef-transport-eu28-billion-94-projects-boost-sustainable-and-connected-mobility-across-europe-2025-07-03_en.