

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002699/25
to the Commission
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)
(2 July 2025)**

Subject: Lack of a prevention and decentralisation strategy in Greece's civil protection

With the law adopted in June 2025, the Greek Government maintained its centralised approach to civil protection, making no provision for mandatory prevention projects (fire zones, evacuation plans) and without any meaningful involvement of local government or forestry services. The new framework also includes staff on fixed-term contracts, with no prospect for seasonal firefighters and without a plan to strengthen the workforce.

The AEGIS programme, which is co-financed by the EU, has been presented as the largest investment in civil protection, but to date it has not delivered comprehensive results. Transparency issues have been identified, as well as an excessive emphasis on communication activities and the leasing of aircraft. What is more, critical decentralised coordination projects, such as the 13 Regional Centres, were excluded from the Recovery Fund without sufficient justification.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Does it monitor the progress and effectiveness of the AEGIS programme?
2. Did it ask for explanations as to why prevention projects were excluded from the Recovery Fund?
3. How could it help strengthen the role of local authorities in civil protection?

Submitted: 2.7.2025

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

The Commission does not monitor the overall progress or effectiveness of the Greek AEGIS programme on civil protection, as it is primarily a national initiative managed by Greek authorities.

However, the Commission follows up the implementation of specific components of the programme that are funded by the Cohesion Policy funds ⁽¹⁾, in line with the principle of shared management, as well as the investments implemented under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) Plan (RRP) ⁽²⁾.

The Greek RRP contains a set of measures to improve civil protection. One of those measures related to the implementation of Regional Civil Protection Centres (PEKEPP) was removed from the RRP during its last revision adopted by the Council on 17 July 2025 ⁽³⁾, on the basis of Article 21 of the RRF Regulation ⁽⁴⁾ as no longer feasible within the RRF timeline due to objective circumstances.

The Greek authorities provided the required justifications and evidence to this end. To note that the RRF only co-funded this measure at around one-fifth of its total estimated budget.

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), through its capacity building tools, is co-financing disaster resilience projects targeting local authorities and communities, including to Greek entities.

One recent example of UCPM funded projects is ROSES ⁽⁵⁾, coordinated by a Greek university, with a focus on strengthening risk awareness in Western Balkans cross-border areas by supporting local authorities and communities in disaster risk management.

Another action is FIRE-SCENE ⁽⁶⁾, led by Spain with the involvement of a Greek university, which is developing tools for wildfire risk governance in the Mediterranean, with strong participation from local stakeholders.

⁽¹⁾ In the Programming Period 2021-2027, the Programme 'Civil Protection' contributes with a total support of EUR 713 million.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en.

⁽³⁾ ST 11101/2025

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/projects/roses>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/projects/fire-scene>.