

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003139/25
to the Commission
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)
(30 July 2025)**

Subject: Progress of implementation of irrigation projects in Anavalos, Argolis

Argolis is an extreme case of a region in Greece where water scarcity and poor management of water reserves have created disastrous environmental conditions for agricultural production, tourism and the daily life of residents.

Over fifty years ago, the Anavalos dam was constructed in the sea, collecting surface and underground quantities capable of supplying the water needs of the entire Regional Unit.

In the period 2010-2015, for the first time, a number of projects valued at over EUR 80 000 000 were set up with European funds for the sustainable management and development of Anavalos.

Specifically, EUR 8 200 000 was allocated for the extension of the irrigation network to Koutsopodi — Elliniko — Airport, EUR 7 800 000 for the extension to Fichtia — Monastiraki — Mycenae, EUR 32 000 000 for the extension to Epidaurus — Lygourio and EUR 38 000 000 for the extension of the network to Ermionida. At the same time, since October 2010, a special environmental study has been signed off for the enrichment of the aquifer of the Argolic plain (where today the nitrate ion measurements are up to five times the maximum permitted) from the excess quantities of water that end up in the sea from the sources of Kefalari and Lerna.

Can the Commission say:

1. At what stage of completion are the above projects for the expansion of the irrigation network around Anavalos?
2. Is the above enrichment study being implemented?

Submitted: 30.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(2 October 2025)**

The specific projects mentioned for the expansion of irrigation network around Anavalos have been supported under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). Funding under the EAFRD is executed under the shared management implementation mode.

Consequently, the project approval process and further implementation falls under the responsibility of the Member States, and, hence, the Commission does not have information on individual submitted applications.

The Commission is not aware of the specific study mentioned. Greece submitted its Third River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) pursuant to Directive 2000/60/EC (the Water Framework Directive) ⁽¹⁾ in June 2024.

The Commission is currently assessing the Greek RBMPs, together with those of seven other late Member States, and the measures included therein.

The Greek Third RBMPs show that Greece is assessing the impact of artificial recharge. Artificial recharge of aquifers was implemented in all River Basin Districts between 2015 and 2021 and new artificial recharges are planned for 2022-2027.

The Commission envisages to publish the results of the assessment of the Greek RBMPs by the end of 2025. As a follow up to the assessment, the Commission will engage in a structured dialogue with Greece to address the recommendations it will make to enhance the implementation of water legislation in the country.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2000/60/oj/eng>.