

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003432/25
to the Commission
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)
(4 September 2025)

Subject: Addressing problems in the implementation of the ‘Changing My Heating System and Water Heater’ programme

On 4 September, the Greek Solar Industry Association (EBHE) presented data on the unjustified delay, leading to the cancellation of the implementation of the ‘Changing My Heating System and Water Heater’ programme, which is part of the Recovery and Resilience Fund and includes expenditure of EUR 148 800 000 for 120 000 vulnerable beneficiary households.

In this context, it should be taken into account that the use of a solar water heater leads to a 30% saving in terms of total household electricity consumption. In addition, purely Greek and European raw materials and technology are used, while the relevant sector in Greece employs 5 000 workers in 25 companies, which are among the best in the world. Finally, the delay in the programme is causing a 50% reduction in business production and redundancies of skilled personnel.

What measures will the Commission therefore take:

1. to address the Greek Government’s delays, which are turning a Recovery Fund programme into a means of crushing a hitherto thriving European green industry?
2. to protect vulnerable Greek households, which are held hostage awaiting the implementation of the programme?
3. to ascertain whether the delays observed in relation to the EU’s objectives, rules and current timetable are due to the Ministry’s rumoured intention to assign energy saving programmes to energy providers (i.e. to oligopolies that profit from increased energy consumption)?

Submitted: 4.9.2025

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(7 November 2025)

Sub-investment 4 of the measure 16994 — ‘Energy Efficiency and promotion of Renewable Energy Sources for auto-consumption’ within the Greek Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP), aims to provide financial support to households, specifically for the installation of new solar water heaters.

This sub-investment entails the installation of 130 100 solar water heating systems and heat pumps for households, out of which, 26 020 will be for energy poor households.

The Commission will assess the implementation of this measure in the context of the ninth payment request to be submitted in September 2026 at the latest.

In addition, the Commission may use the European Semester process to bring further attention to the issues related to implementation.

The Commission will also assess the draft National Building Renovation Plans that Member States have to submit by the end of 2025 under Article 3 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive ⁽¹⁾.

These plans must include information about financial investments, including public investments, and how these respond to national needs.

In order to offer protection and support to vulnerable households, these plans must provide information about the assistance provided to vulnerable households through the Member State’s policies, measures and investments.

These draft plans will be assessed by the Commission and, where relevant, will be followed by recommendations. The final plans will be submitted by end of 2026.

The Commission is in close contact with all Member States on the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) ⁽²⁾, for example in the context of the Concerted Action framework ⁽³⁾.

In this context, the Commission assesses the timeliness of the Member States’ actions and can act if there are unjustified delays.

⁽¹⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/1275 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 April 2024 on the energy performance of buildings: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1275/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ Directive (EU) 2023/1791 on energy efficiency: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/1791/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.ca-eed.eu/>.
