

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003707/25
to the Commission
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)
(24 September 2025)**

Subject: Delays in the construction of the Tsikalariou dam in Naxos and lack of funding for irrigation networks

Naxos, one of Greece's islands with the highest levels of primary sector production, is facing a serious water supply problem. The Tsikalariou dam project, which was included in the Rural Development Programme in 2009, with co-financing from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, is facing undue delays. Despite a supplementary contract to the tune of around EUR 3 million having been signed in summer 2025, the project remains in the contractor mobilisation phase.

Even more worrying is the fact that irrigation networks — without which the dam cannot fulfil its purpose — have been included neither in the original contract nor in the supplementary contract, as they are considered as a separate funding item under the RDP. The project's completion thus hangs in the balance, giving rise to serious risks for the primary sector, the economy and the daily lives of local residents.

In light of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is it monitoring the progress of the project's implementation, given it is being co-financed through the EAFRD?
2. What EU funding tools can be mobilised so that the needs of the irrigation networks in Naxos can be met without delay?
3. How can it be ensured that water infrastructure projects on islands do not remain incomplete for decades, thus undermining agricultural production and social cohesion?

Submitted: 24.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(11 November 2025)**

The specific project of Tsikalariou dam in Naxos is supported by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The EAFRD is implemented in shared management with the national authorities. The implementation of the project falls under the responsibility of the Member State.

Under the Greek Recovery and Resilience Plan's (RRP) measure 16285 supporting 'Investments in the national irrigation network through Public Private Partnership schemes', Greece committed to boost the supply and quality of irrigation water and to rationalise its consumption through the construction of irrigation networks infrastructure and a reform of the institutional, organisational and operational framework of the collective irrigation networks.

The Commission services in charge of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) are available to examine together with the Greek RRF Agency whether the irrigation network in Naxos could benefit of the support available under this RRP measure.

To ensure effective and timely use of the available tools under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Commission services provide technical guidance to Member States through regular communication.

The Commission can also encourage Member States to make full use of the available funding opportunities and technical assistance. However, the day-to-day management of investments financed by the CAP, including water infrastructure projects, falls under the responsibility of the relevant national authorities.
