

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
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Member States are responsible for water management and for meeting the objectives set out in the Water Framework Directive¹. The Greek authorities are therefore responsible for the identification of most appropriate options to ensure supply of water for irrigation and related financing options for these investments, including through the EU financial support. As outlined in the Water Resilience Strategy², in the light of increased water scarcity and more frequent and prolonged droughts, it is nevertheless important when planning any additional water supply options to do so as part of an integrated strategy that balances demand and supply while considering long-term climate impacts. Furthermore, the environmental impacts of any new project needs to be assessed carefully to ensure compliance with applicable environmental law, including by ensuring that the status of the affected water bodies will not deteriorate, as stipulated by the Water Framework Directive.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)³ ensures income stability through decoupled income support and risk management tools, such as insurance and disaster recovery assistance. It also funds sustainable irrigation systems. Moreover, as part of the CAP simplification package⁴, the Commission proposed a new type of crisis payments for farmers allowing the use of existing funds to offset severe production losses from natural or catastrophic events. Finally, the modernised cohesion policy⁵ promotes investments that strengthen water access and resilience.

¹ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p.1.

² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, 'European Water Resilience Strategy', COM(2025) 280, 4 June 2025. The quotes are from page 1 and pages 6-7 respectively.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy_en.

⁴ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/circabc-ewpp/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/b595fc96-2988-44fb-86a5-4383cb070119/download>.

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/2021-2027_en.