

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004028/25
to the Commission
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)
(14 October 2025)

Subject: ‘Apollo’ programme removed from the Greek recovery plan — Exclusion of energy communities from the just transition

Initially included in the Greek Recovery and Resilience Plan, the EUR 100 million ‘Apollo’ programme was intended to cover the energy needs of vulnerable households through renewable energy projects, with storage (400-500 MW), at energy community level. This project had a strong social and territorial focus, targeting remote, mountainous and island regions in particular, where it would be instrumental in reducing energy costs and strengthening social cohesion.

However, according to the official information of the Greek authorities, the programme was removed from the recovery plan in September 2025 owing to delays. As a result, the modified plan no longer includes any provision to support energy communities. This has provoked serious backlash — including from mountainous municipalities such as those of Northern Tzoumerka and Georgios Karaiskakis — with the project’s removal representing a blow to social cohesion and the tackling of energy poverty.

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

1. How does it assess the social and regional impact of the Apollo programme’s removal from the Greek recovery plan?
2. Does it intend to ask the Greek authorities to revise the plan in order to restore the provision of support for energy communities and RES projects with storage and a social focus?

Submitted: 14.10.2025

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(16 January 2026)

The Commission takes good note of the issues raised by the Honourable Member.

On 3 November 2025, Greece submitted to the Commission a proposal to revise its Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP), as last amended in June 2025.

The Commission will examine this proposal in the coming period, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/241 ⁽¹⁾, including whether the reasons put forward justify an amendment to the Plan.

While this assessment is ongoing, the Commission cannot comment on the content of the submission or on specific proposals concerning the inclusion or exclusion of measures.

The Commission recognises that the tight implementation deadlines under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (August 2026) may justify decisions by Member States to remove or re-scope measures where implementation risks are high, provided this is due to objective circumstances ⁽²⁾.

Such amendments must still meet the article 19 assessment criteria ⁽³⁾ and maintain the overall goals and level of ambition of the Greek RRP.

In parallel to the ongoing revision process of the Greek RRP, and in particularly relevant for investment measures that may be removed or downscaled for various objective circumstances, the Commission encourages Greece to also use complementary EU instruments, such as the structural funds and the social climate fund, to continue supporting vulnerable consumers and energy community initiatives.

Furthermore, the Commission invites the national authorities to ensure the meaningful participation of local authorities and civil society organisations, where relevant, in the design and governance of such programmes, to facilitate transparency, inclusiveness and timely delivery, and preserve the social and territorial objectives of the energy transition.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/241/oj>.

⁽²⁾ In line with Article 21 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241.

⁽³⁾ Article 19 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241.