

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004290/25
to the Commission
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)
(2 November 2025)**

Subject: Sericulture in Evros suffers blow due to OPEKEPE delays in aid payments

Sericulture is one of the most traditional and specialised agricultural sectors in Greece, with significant export activity and a historical presence in the Soufli area of the Evros prefecture. Recently, however, dozens of producers have been facing serious financial problems due to delays and errors by OPEKEPE in aid payments. According to press reports and complaints from producers, more than 15 farms have remained unpaid, with the total amount of aid owed amounting to approximately EUR 600 000. This fact is stifling a sector that is already burdened by increased energy and raw material costs, and threatens the continuation of production in a border region that depends on agriculture and the rural economy. Given that this aid is part of EU funding under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), questions arise regarding the correct and timely implementation of European rules and the protection of small producers.

Accordingly:

1. Is the Commission aware of the problems that have emerged in OPEKEPE's payments to the Evros silkworm farmers?
2. What actions does the Commission intend to take to ensure the correct and timely payment of European aid to all beneficiaries?
3. Is the Commission considering the possibility of activating exceptional support measures or controls to protect silkworm farming in areas affected by mismanagement or delays in payments?

Submitted: 2.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(19 January 2026)**

The Commission has not been made aware of specific issues related to the Evros silkworm farmers.

The Commission monitors the payments made under the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan (CSP) ⁽¹⁾. Amongst others, the CSP provides for coupled income support (CIS) for silkworms of EUR 321 195.00 per claim year. For claim years 2023 and 2024, the amounts of EUR 169 367.00 ⁽²⁾ and EUR 161 862.50 ⁽³⁾ were paid respectively as CIS for silkworm farmers.

It is the responsibility of the Member States to ensure that payments are disbursed to the beneficiaries in full and within the payment deadlines as laid down by Union law ⁽⁴⁾. Payments outside the deadlines lead to proportionate reductions from EU reimbursement to the Member States of up to 100%. The Commission does not have the competence to activate exceptional support measures or controls in areas affected by mismanagement or delays in payments.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/egkrisi-2is-tropopoiisis-ss-kap/>.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/4i-synedriasi-epitropis-parakolouthisis-ss-kap-10-dekembriou-2024-kavala/>.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/6i-synedriasi-epitropis-parakolouthisis-ss-kap-11-noembriou-2025-alexandroupoli/>.

⁽⁴⁾ Article 38, Article 44 and Article 59 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 — <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2116/oj>.