

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004562/25
to the Commission
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)
(14 November 2025)**

Subject: Crete's earthquake-stricken areas not included in 'Exoikonomo 2025' programme or in RePowerEU measures

The earthquake that hit the regional unit of Heraklion on 27 September 2021 caused major destruction, leaving behind extensive damage to homes and infrastructure. Although three years have passed, restoration efforts are progressing slowly: residents continue to live in unsuitable buildings, housing application approvals remain minimal, rent subsidies are delayed by up to 15 months, dangerous structures have still not been demolished, while seizure notices have been issued and primary residences are being auctioned off.

At the same time, the areas affected by the earthquake have not been included in the 'Exoikonomo 2025' programme, nor have they benefited from the tools under RePowerEU, unlike other affected areas in Greece which have taken special support measures. This unequal treatment raises a serious question of whether it is compatible with the principle of territorial cohesion laid down in Article 174 TFEU and with the obligation to ensure that all citizens have equal access to natural disaster recovery measures.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is the exclusion of Crete's earthquake-stricken areas from the 'Exoikonomo 2025' programme and RePowerEU measures compatible with the principle of territorial cohesion and equal treatment?
2. Will it investigate the reasons why Greece did not include these areas in the energy upgrading measures taken for other areas affected by similar natural disasters?
3. Does the Commission intend to call on Greece to take immediate corrective measures to ensure that Crete's earthquake-stricken areas are included in the appropriate restoration and energy upgrading programmes?

Submitted: 15.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(5 February 2026)**

Greece has implemented several versions of the 'Exoikonomo' programme, which aims to promote EU and national energy efficiency policy, by supporting the energy upgrades of households and buildings.

Greece has used various funding mechanisms and instruments to implement the programme. 'Exoikonomo 2025' is part of the projects supported by the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

On completion, the investment financed by the resources of the Fund will have contributed to the energy savings and energy renovation of at least 11 500 homes ⁽¹⁾.

It should be noted that, according to the programme's guide, the investment includes separate incentives to support families with members with disabilities, families with three (3) or more dependent children and vulnerable households, those affected by natural disasters in the regions of Thessaly, Central Greece, Central and Western Macedonia, and the earthquake victims of Samos and Arkalochori (Crete).

The incentives take the form of both an increased percentage of grants (5%-30% more than the other beneficiaries ⁽²⁾) and an earmarked budget (EUR 440 872 917.71 for those affected by natural disasters and the earthquake victims).

In 2022, Greece also benefitted from EUR 1 351 886 of financial assistance from the EU Solidarity Fund ⁽³⁾ for essential recovery and repair operations in Crete.

The funds were used to clean up the disaster-stricken areas, to provide temporary accommodation, and to restore essential road, education and wastewater infrastructure.

⁽¹⁾ <https://exoikonomo2025.gov.gr/welcome>.

⁽²⁾ <https://exoikonomo2025.gov.gr/opheloumenoi>.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/solidarity-fund_en.