

EN

E-004579/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.1.2026)

1. The Commission acknowledges the challenges faced by the Aegean islands, including limited transport, health infrastructure, natural hazards and pressure linked to migration.

In the 2021–2027 programming period, the cohesion policy regional programmes for South and North Aegean benefit from increased allocation (EUR 679 million total public funding versus EUR 424.1 million in 2014-2020)¹, including resources targeted at port infrastructures and road network (EUR 56 million), health and hospital infrastructures (EUR 28 million) and healthcare services (EUR 9.4 million). Additionally, the regions receive support from funding provided through sectoral programmes.

The Commission also supports Greece in managing migration, with a focus on the Greek islands. Since 2015, over EUR 5 billion² in EU funding have been given to support actions such as accommodation facilities on the islands and services for third-country nationals in the East Aegean.

Furthermore, measure 16931 of the Greek recovery and resilience plan³ consists of actions to upgrade touristic ports and promote sustainable development initiatives (green and blue development), including in the Aegean islands.

2. Under the two regional programmes, through the European regional development fund, some EUR 43 million are foreseen for support to small and medium-sized enterprises' competitiveness aiming to strengthen entrepreneurship, improve productivity and support sectors where the Aegean islands have demonstrated economic potential and comparative advantages, in line with the national smart specialisation strategy. The regions can also benefit from the resources allocated under the national programme 'competitiveness'.

¹ <https://www.pepba.gr/>; <https://www.pepna.gr/>.

² This refers to financial support under the asylum, migration and integration fund, the internal security fund and the emergency support instrument for the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework as well as support under the asylum, migration and integration fund, the border management and visa instrument and the internal security fund for the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en.