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

1. In 2021-2027, Cohesion Policy supports investments in drinking water supply and water resource conservation across Greece, with an EU contribution of EUR 515.5 million. As part of the ongoing Mid-Term Review, Attica and other Greek regions are expected to benefit from increased financial resources under the relevant programmes to strengthen secure access to water, sustainable and integrated water management, and water resilience.

Moreover, Greece's Recovery and Resilience Plan¹ prioritised the establishment of a water regulatory authority to improve the sustainability of water utility operations and investments. The plan also supports the development of water supply and water-saving infrastructure. The decisions on project prioritisation and implementation locations lie with the competent Greek authorities.

If a disaster exceeds national response capacities, a country can request assistance through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)², enabling the Emergency Response Cooperation Centre to mobilise support from other EU Member States and Participating States, such as specialised equipment or response teams. Greece did not request its activation in this case.

2. Water scarcity is a manmade disaster and not a natural disaster. Member States and accession countries suffering from water scarcity are not eligible for assistance from the EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF)³. The European Water Resilience Strategy⁴ supports access to clean, affordable water through improved water resource management, increased water efficiency and wastewater reuse. Among these actions is the effective implementation of Water Framework Directive⁵, which obliges Member States to protect the ecological and chemical status of their water bodies.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en.

² EU Civil Protection Mechanism: https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en.

³ Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 of 11 November 2002 establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund (OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3) as amended by Regulation (EU) No 661/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council of 15 May 2014 (OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 143) and by Regulation (EU) 2020/461 of the European Parliament and the Council of 30 March 2020 (OJ L 99, 31.3.2020, p. 9). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32002R2012>.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/environment/water-resilience-strategy_en.

⁵ 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.