

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004748/25
to the Commission
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)
(1 December 2025)

Subject: Misleading reports by the Greek Government regarding the approval of Action Plan 2 and the payment of direct payments

The letter from DG AGRI to the Greek authorities ⁽¹⁾ (19.11.2025) clarifies that the approval of the revised Action Plan 2 is conditional and not linked to the payment of direct aid, which, under shared management, is the sole responsibility of the Member State. The Commission points out that nothing prevented the Greek Government from proceeding with payments on time, requests quarterly progress reports on the implementation of the new control methodology (including checks with the Independent Public Revenue Authority (IPRA) and National Cadastre) and warns that failure to meet the deadlines may be considered a failure to implement, with the possible need to cover aid from national resources. Despite this, the Greek Government is publicly presenting the approval of Action Plan 2 as a ‘liberation’ of payments and promoting the inclusion of OPEKEPE in the IPRA as a compliance measure. ⁽²⁾

In view of the above:

1. Can the Commission confirm that the advance payment of the 2025 basic aid and the settlement of 2024 debts are not conditional on the approval of Action Plan 2, and how does it assess the Government's statements on the ‘liberation’ of payments and the extent to which they create a misleading image for producers?
2. What monitoring tools, sanctions or corrective actions will be activated in case of non-compliance with the quarterly reporting and the new auditing methodology?
3. Does the Commission consider that the affiliation of OPEKEPE to the IPRA meets the requirements of the EU framework for paying agencies?

Submitted: 1.12.2025

Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(2 February 2026)

Member States may pay advances of up to 50% for interventions in the form of direct payments prior to 1 December, but not before 16 October ⁽¹⁾.

Under shared management mode, it is at the discretion of the Member States to set conditions for those payments. Those payments are irrespective of and not conditional to the approval of the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) action plan.

The Commission monitors on a regular basis the progress of the implementation of the action plan and may provide assistance on request of the Member State.

In case of failure to comply with the proposed actions, including the quarterly reporting, the Commission may adopt implementing acts suspending the monthly payments to the Member State referred to in Article 21(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 ⁽²⁾ or the interim payments referred to in Article 32 of the same Regulation.

However, this should not have an impact on the payments to farmers. Furthermore, the acceptance of the IACS action plan does not exclude the possibility of future audits which are crucial for ensuring that the control systems function effectively and are aligned with the expected standards.

Member States have the obligation to appoint paying agencies accredited by their competent authority. The transition of the paying agency, currently under probation, to the Independent Public Revenue Authority is ongoing.

This process is monitored by the Commission in the framework of the ongoing accreditation action plan which ends on 12 March 2026.

¹ https://www.efsyn.gr/oikonomia/491633_tipote-den-empodize-tin-kybernisi-na-plirosei

² <https://www.kathimerini.gr/politics/563931625/tsiaras-gia-opekepe-egkrithike-to-action-plan-2-apo-tin-komision/>

⁽¹⁾ Article 44(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2116/oj>.

⁽²⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2116/oj>.