

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000504/26
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(6 February 2026)

Subject: Tools to prevent scandals in agriculture

Recent revelations regarding incidents of fraud and mismanagement of European agricultural funds through OPEKEPE have highlighted structural weaknesses in the control, transparency and accountability mechanisms at national level, with a direct impact on the credibility of the CAP and the protection of the financial interests of Greek farmers.

The mobilisation of the European Public Prosecutor's Office has demonstrated that these problems do not concern isolated cases, but systemic deficiencies, with Government complicity. It is crucial to examine how Greece can make fuller use of existing and future European tools to prevent similar occurrences.

Illustratively, in the Netherlands, universal satellite monitoring (AMS) is in effect, with timely alerts and the possibility of correction without penalties. In Denmark, on-the-spot checks are strictly risk-targeted, with extensive use of automated data.

Such tools could include the enhanced use of digital data control and cross-checking systems (such as satellite monitoring, geospatial data and automated checks), mandatory interoperability of databases at European level, strengthening the independence of paying agencies, as well as closer institutional cooperation with the EPPO and OLAF.

What specific European financial, institutional and practical tools does the Commission intend to propose or activate to support Greece in preventing future scandals, enhancing transparency and ensuring that EU aid only reaches the real and legitimate beneficiaries?

Submitted: 6.2.2026

Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(14 April 2026)

Within the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) framework, all Member States, are obliged to ensure the effective protection of the financial interests of the Union, including, through the Area Monitoring System, required to be fully operational in all Member States since 2024 ⁽¹⁾.

IT tools available to Member States to this end, such as Arachne to score risks of irregularities, are used by the national authorities to prevent and report irregularities, including suspected or established fraud affecting CAP funds.

Arachne will progressively be modernised and combine data from several databases. Member States must also perform systematic checks that target, *inter alia*, areas where the risk of errors is the highest ⁽²⁾.

Further investigations and additional checks should be conducted when warning signals or indicators pointing to possible irregularities, fraud or corruption are spotted.

When the Commission becomes aware of any suspected case of fraud, corruption or any illegal activity affecting the EU budget, it informs the European Anti-Fraud Office and, if applicable, the European Public Prosecutor's Office promptly.

In recent years, the Commission has conducted numerous audits of the management and control system of the CAP expenditure in Greece, identifying several recurrent issues.

Thus, the Commission requested the Greek authorities to put in place an action plan for the expenditure under the integrated administration and control system, which is currently being implemented.

A second action plan addresses persistent non-compliances with the accreditation criteria ⁽³⁾ by the Greek Paying Agency, which was placed under probation in September 2024. One of the actions of that plan is the implementation of an effective anti-fraud strategy.

⁽¹⁾ Art. 70 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116.

⁽²⁾ Art. 60.1 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116.

⁽³⁾ Annex 1 Point 1 (C) of Regulation (EU) 2022/127.