

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000614/26
to the Commission
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)
(11 February 2026)**

Subject: Landslide on the Ionian motorway — safety of European infrastructure, concessionaire responsibilities and government oversight

The recent landslide on the Ionian motorway between Arta and Aetolia-Acarnania has suspended traffic on a critical road in Western Greece, affecting the safety of citizens and the local economy.

The motorway operates under a concession contract, with the concessionaire responsible for assessments, maintenance and safety, and is part of a European transport network that has received funding from the EU.

Despite the seriousness of the incident, there has been no clear public information regarding the possible liability of or sanctions against the concessionaire, nor have any measures been taken to protect users, such as suspending tolls on sections that remain closed. This attitude raises questions about the adequacy of assessments, the resilience of infrastructure against extreme weather events and the effectiveness of state oversight.

In similar cases in the past, the concessionaire was sanctioned and tolls were suspended in order to protect citizens.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. Given that the Ionian motorway has been co-financed by EU funds, what control and oversight mechanisms are provided for at EU level to ensure the safety, maintenance and resilience of such critical infrastructure?
2. Does it intend to investigate whether European safety, resilience and oversight standards have been met in this specific case?
3. What obligations do Member States and concessionaires have to protect users, including regarding the financial burden presented by tolls, when critical infrastructure is taken out of service due to natural disasters or technical problems?

Submitted: 11.2.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(29 April 2026)**

Under the programming periods 2000-2006 and 2007-2013 the Common Provisions Regulations (CPR) for the management of structural funds ⁽¹⁾ required that Member States establish management and control systems for their programmes and ensure their functioning in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and compliance with EU eligibility rules, including as regards durability of operations. Cohesion policy funds do not cover operational and infrastructure maintenance costs, which are national competence.

The construction of the Ionian Motorway was co-funded and completed under the operational programmes ‘Road Axes, Ports and Urban Development 2000-2006’ ⁽²⁾ and ‘Improving Accessibility 2007-2013’ ⁽³⁾.

Both programmes have been closed and the final payment disbursed by the Commission services on the basis of a list of complete and functioning projects.

The construction of the Ionian motorway was carried out through a concession contract, which lays out the terms of the public concession and the responsibilities of the concessionaire in cases of natural disasters causing technical problems.

⁽¹⁾ Article 30(4) of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds, applicable to the 2000-2006 financing period ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1999/1260/oj> and Article 57 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, applicable to the 2007-2013 period, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2006/1083/oj>.

⁽²⁾ Decision C (2001) 534 of 19 March 2001: <http://www.cc.cec/sg/vista/home?specificDossierSA&SDRef=C/2001/534>, as last amended by Decision C (2009) 114 of 20 January 2009: <http://www.cc.cec/sg/vista/home?documentDetails&DocRef=C/2009/114&ComCat=SPINE>.

⁽³⁾ Decision C (2007) 5436 of 31 October 2007: <http://www.cc.cec/sg/vista/home?specificDossierSA&SDRef=C/2007/5436>, as last amended by Decision C (2015) 9770 of 21 December 2015: <http://www.cc.cec/sg/vista/home?documentDetails&DocRef=C/2015/9770&ComCat=SPINE>.

Recognising the critical importance of the sustainability and resilience of infrastructure projects in view of an ever more challenging natural environment, the CPR for the current financing period 2021-2027 ⁽⁴⁾ foresees that adequate mechanisms for climate proofing of supported investments in infrastructure should be an integral part of programming and implementation of the funds.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy:
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021R1060>.