

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000711/26
to the Commission
Kostas Papadakis (NI)
(19 February 2026)**

Subject: The acute problems faced by earthquake victims in Arkalochori, Crete

Four and a half years on from the devastating earthquake in Arkalochori, Crete, residents' problems persist and the Nea Dimokratia Government and the EU guidelines bear responsibility for this.

At least 150 families still live in containers and as many again live in dangerous homes. The three local schools have been deemed unsafe, there have been delays in the payment of much of the compensation, while some payments never materialised.

The Commission's reply to the request to mobilise the 'Solidarity Fund' was again that private compensation is not eligible.

The appalling situation that exists presently is the result of the EU's cost-benefit principle, which treats infrastructure, protection and restoration projects as a cost.

Instead, corporate group business ventures built on the ruins left behind by the earthquake are considered eligible, as long as they guarantee profit, and are fast-tracked accordingly.

In view of the above:

1. What is the Commission's position regarding requests from Arkalochori's residents and the local earthquake victims' association for immediate and full compensation, for an end to all auctions and the cancellation of auctions that have already taken place, and for completion of the demolition of all dangerous and dilapidated buildings, without burdening the earthquake victims?
2. What is the Commission's position regarding the fact that EU policy, with its cost-benefit criterion, leaves people unprotected, both before and after natural disasters, resulting in compensation and infrastructure restoration being 'ineligible' – the clearest example being the three schools in Arkalochori –, while priority is given to infrastructure that facilitates war readiness, on which a fortune is spent, with dangerous developments in store for the people?

Submitted: 19.2.2026

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

The Commission acknowledges the difficulties experienced by those affected from the devastating earthquakes.

In 2022, Greece has benefitted from EUR 1 351 886 of financial assistance from the EU Solidarity Fund for essential recovery and repair operations in Crete following the earthquake.

The funds were used to clean up the disaster-stricken areas, to provide temporary accommodation and to restore essential road, education and wastewater infrastructure.

In addition, with the support of Cohesion Policy for 2021-2027 ⁽¹⁾, Greece has allocated resources for risk prevention and management of risks related to natural hazards not associated with climate, for example, earthquakes.

Under the shared management and subsidiarity principle governing the Cohesion Policy funds, selection and implementation of projects is the responsibility of the national authorities. However, it should be noted that compensations for damages to private properties are not eligible.

In line with the article 73(2)(c) of the Common Provisions Regulation 2021/1060 ⁽²⁾, the Commission considers that a cost-benefit analysis is a useful tool to determine the best relationship between the amount of support, the activities undertaken and the achievement of objectives.

⁽¹⁾ https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/cohesion_overview/21-27.

⁽²⁾ 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/eli/reg/2021/1060/oj/eng>.

It helps thus the competent national authorities define the most appropriate scope of projects, their level of EU funding and the added value for the society.
