

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001337/26
to the Commission
Georgios Aftias (PPE)
(31 March 2026)**

Subject: European funding for the creation of a European Water Management Authority and for flood response

This is the third time I have called for European action within the space of a few days, in relation to a very serious issue concerning the excessive surge of water from Bulgaria into the Evros region. Following extensive rainfall in Bulgaria, large volumes of water have been discharged from dams, resulting in water levels rising to over 7 metres, the flooding of 150 square kilometres of land and the destruction of rural infrastructure, roads and private property. Residents have attempted to create makeshift barriers to keep water from entering their homes. Three municipalities have found themselves in a disastrous situation. Immediate and coordinated European intervention is needed to finance and establish a European Water Management Authority, in order to provide direct support for the Evros region.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Will it finance the creation of a European Water Management Authority in order to provide direct support for the Evros region?
2. Will it finance the construction of additional flood defences in Evros to prevent similar events in the future?

Submitted: 31.3.2026

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

1. In line with the principle of subsidiarity, Member States are responsible for identifying and implementing measures to reach the objective of EU water legislation, including the EU Water Framework Directive ⁽¹⁾ and the EU Floods Directive ⁽²⁾. This includes matters related to coordinating action in relation to transboundary river basins. The Commission therefore does not plan to establish a European Water Management Authority. The Commission supports Member States through existing frameworks: the European Flood Awareness System provides real-time monitoring and early warnings, while the EU Civil Protection Mechanism mobilises rapid operational assistance upon request. For post-disaster relief, the EU Solidarity Fund offers financial aid for infrastructure repair (contingent on meeting application thresholds), and the Floods Directive ensures long-term resilience through mandatory risk mapping and assessment.

2. Under the programming period 2021-2027, in the region of Eastern Macedonia & Thrace, cohesion policy finances flood protection actions under the regional programme 'Eastern Macedonia & Thrace' with some EUR 23 million. The region is benefiting from additional funding for flood protection actions from the sectoral programme 'Environment and Climate Change', which has an allocation of some EUR 213 million and from the Interreg cross-border cooperation programme Greece-Bulgaria with EUR 12 million.

⁽¹⁾ 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. 1-73, as amended by Commission Directive 2014/101/EU of 30 October 2014, OJ L 311, 31.10.2014, p. 32-35.

⁽²⁾ Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood, OJ L 288, 6.11.2007, p. 27-34.