

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001341/26
to the Commission
Kostas Papadakis (NI)
(31 March 2026)**

Subject: Flood damage in Evros

The January floods in Evros saw more than 122 square kilometres of land, including 55 square kilometres of arable land, submerged underwater.

The Nea Demokratia Government, in full alignment with the EU, has not said a word about any immediate protection measures.

At the same time, ordinary people are paying an arm and a leg for fuel and energy, with costs soaring even higher as a result of the illegal US-Israeli war in the Middle East with the complicity of the EU.

The absence of a comprehensive water management plan leaves the area vulnerable to flooding and water scarcity.

As a result of the agreement between Greece and Bulgaria on the management of the water of the river Arda, struggling farmers and livestock breeders are confronted with flooding in winter and uncertainty about the supply for watering in summer.

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

1. What view does it take of the call for 100% compensation for damages to crops or livestock, production, boreholes, pumping stations and agricultural equipment, bypassing the unacceptable conditions of the EUSF?
2. What view does it take of the fact that the water management plan is inadequate due to the EU's 'cost-benefit' criterion, which leaves the people unprotected whenever infrastructure does not guarantee profits for investors?
3. What view does it take of the fact that, under the responsibility of the EU and the national government, even the most basic needs of the people of Evros in terms of flood protection are not treated as a priority, and yet at the same time the region is being 'upgraded' into a geostrategic hub for the EU and NATO, centred around the American NATO base in Alexandroupolis, turning the region into a target for military retaliation, with incalculable risks?

Submitted: 31.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(11 June 2026)**

The Greek Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan ⁽¹⁾, ⁽²⁾ supports investments in restoration following natural disasters and other catastrophic events. Following the recent CAP simplification package ⁽³⁾, Member States may also offer crisis payments for farmers affected by such events.

Member States are responsible for identifying and implementing measures to reach the objective of EU water legislation, including the Water Framework Directive ⁽⁴⁾ and the Floods Directive ⁽⁵⁾.

The Water Framework Directive ⁽⁶⁾ is neutral regarding public or private ownership of water services and leaves discretion to the Member States as regards national governance structures.

The directive also allows Member States broad flexibility in setting water pricing and related cost-recovery mechanisms, taking into account socioeconomic, environmental, geographic, and climatic conditions, provided that the environmental objectives are met.

⁽¹⁾ Common Agricultural Policy — Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 (OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, pp. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/oj>).

⁽²⁾ <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/category/sskap-2023-2027/sskap-egkrisi-tropopoiiseis/> intervention P73-2.2.B.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2025/2649 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2025 amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 as regards the conditionality system, types of intervention in the form of direct payment, types of intervention in certain sectors and rural development and annual performance reports and Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 as regards suspensions of payments, annual performance clearance and controls and penalties, PE/49/2025/REV/1 (OJ L, 2025/2649, 31.12.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/2649/oj>).

⁽⁴⁾ 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.

⁽⁵⁾ 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.

⁽⁶⁾ 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.

Under the programming period 2021-2027, in the region of Eastern Macedonia & Thrace, cohesion policy supports flood protection actions with around EUR 23 million under the regional programme 'Eastern Macedonia & Thrace'.

The region is benefiting from additional funding for flood protection actions from the sectoral programme 'Environment and Climate Change', which has an allocation of around EUR 237 million, and from the Interreg cross-border cooperation programme Greece-Bulgaria — with EUR 12 million.
