

EN

E-001395/2026

Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.6.2026)

1. Based on available data, the Commission understands that the Diakopto – Kalavryta rack railway is a historic or touristic railway. As foreseen by Article 2(3)(b) of Directive (EU) 2016/798¹ and Article 1(4)(b) of Directive (EU) 2016/797², most Member States, including Greece, decided not to apply measures implementing these Directives to infrastructure and vehicles reserved for strictly local, historical or tourist use. The Commission is therefore unable to take a position in relation to the question posed by the Honourable Member as the functioning of historic and touristic railways is governed by national rules.

2. The project ‘Upgrade of the Diakopto – Kalavryta Railway Line’ was co-funded under the operational programme ‘Western Greece’ 2000–2006, with an EU contribution of EUR 8 336 627. Cohesion policy funds do not cover operational and infrastructure maintenance costs. Recognising the importance of the resilience of infrastructure projects, Regulation (EU) 2021/1060³ foresees that adequate mechanisms for climate proofing of infrastructure investments should be a part of implementation of the funds for the financing period 2021–2027.

The Greek authorities have informed the Commission that the Region of Western Greece is to finance the preparatory studies for the reopening of the railway by its own resources.

3. To enhance the protection of critical infrastructure, the EU has adopted Directive (EU) 2022/2557⁴, that takes all-hazards approach, accounting for both man-made and natural risks, and covers 11 sectors, including transport. By July 2026, Member States must identify their critical entities, and once identified, these entities will have to step up their resilience according to the Directive’s standards.

¹ Directive (EU) 2016/798 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on railway safety, OJ L 138 26.5.2016, p. 102, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/798>.

² Directive (EU) 2016/797 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the interoperability of the rail system within the European Union, OJ L 138 26.5.2016, p. 44, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02016L0797-20200528&qid=1779799721754>.

³ 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, OJ L 231 30.6.2021, p. 159, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1060>.

⁴ Directive (EU) 2022/2557 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on the resilience of critical entities and repealing Council Directive 2008/114/EC, OJ L 333 27.12.2022, p. 164, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2022/2557>.