

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001652/26
to the Commission
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)
(22 April 2026)**

Subject: Targeted EU support for small-scale irrigation projects and smart irrigation in arid and island areas

The European Water Resilience Strategy envisages improving water efficiency by 10% by 2030 and modernising infrastructure through financing and digital solutions. At the same time, the Commission itself states that for Greece over 70% of agricultural land faces constraints such as soil aridity and insularity, while over 70% of farms are smaller than 5 hectares.

Furthermore, the European Environment Agency records that Greece is among the Member States that faced water stress, particularly in spring and summer. In light of Directive 2000/60/EC:

1. Does the Commission intend to create a specific European instrument or targeted funding stream for small-scale irrigation projects, water storage, reuse and smart irrigation systems in arid and island areas?
2. Will the Commission provide for faster and simplified approval and funding procedures for small and family farms that cannot be included in large-scale projects?
3. How will the Commission ensure specific prioritisation, within the CAP, cohesion policy and the Water Resilience Strategy, for areas under permanent or seasonal water stress, such as the Greek islands and other arid and island areas?

Submitted: 22.4.2026

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

1. Common Agricultural Policy ⁽¹⁾ (CAP) funding for water management in Greece is accessible to small-scale projects. The specific conditions for accessing funding are decided by the Greek managing authority.

Tackling water scarcity requires a comprehensive approach. The CAP also funds agricultural practices to improve soil quality on 36.5% of Greece's agricultural area ⁽²⁾, more efficient irrigation and water reuse, as well as less water-intensive crops.

2. The 2025 and 2026 simplification packages ⁽³⁾ simplified the CAP including with measures reducing administrative burden for farmers. The day-to-day management of CAP funding, however, is the responsibility of national authorities. In future as at present, where Member States wish to simplify funding procedures, simplified cost options are available for investment support. Irrigation-specific rules to safeguard sustainable water use would still need to be complied with.

3. The proposals for the National and Regional Partnership Plans ⁽⁴⁾, ⁽⁵⁾ and for the CAP post-2027 ⁽⁶⁾, require Member States to continue to support water resilience and climate adaptation. Member States are in charge of targeting support ⁽⁷⁾ to the most affected areas.

⁽¹⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy_en.

⁽²⁾ Greece's Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy (2023-2027) — 36.5% of the utilised agricultural area will receive support (under eco-schemes and agri-environment climate interventions) for practices beneficial for soil management to improve soil quality and biota.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation/simplification-implementation-enforcement/simplification_en.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2025) 565 final.

⁽⁵⁾ As proposed by the Commission, these plans would cover funding for agriculture and cohesion policy post-2027.

⁽⁶⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/media/news/next-chapter-cap-2025-07-17_en.

⁽⁷⁾ For instance, support for farming practices which improve water resilience, less water intensive/more climate resilient crops, investments in more efficient irrigation, water reuse and storage, rainwater harvesting and digital tools.