

EN

E-002004/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(21.8.2026)

1. In 2024, Greece received EUR 101 million of assistance from the EU Solidarity Fund<sup>1</sup> for the disaster caused by storm Daniel in November 2023. The Greek Cohesion Policy programmes integrated emergency relief in Greece's disaster management system to aid households as well as to support workers and firms with job retention subsidies and business reactivation measures. Greece's Recovery and Resilience Plan<sup>2</sup> supports the restoration of Thessaly's road and railway network. The Commission will assess how EU funds contributed to the recovery efforts based on the evidence which the Greek authorities will provide.

2. According to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive<sup>3</sup>, any plan or project likely to have a negative effect on a Natura 2000 site<sup>4</sup> must undergo an impact assessment and can only be approved if they do not compromise the site's integrity. Exceptions to this obligation may be accepted under the conditions established in Article 6(4) of the Directive. It is primarily Greece's responsibility to ensure compliance with EU environmental law.

3. Article 3(8) of the Aarhus Convention<sup>5</sup>, of which the EU and its Member States are party to, requires parties to protect environmental defenders when they make use of their rights, including public participation. The EU partially implements this obligation through Directive (EU) 2024/1069<sup>6</sup>, the transposition period of which expired on 7 May 2026. The Commission will follow up with the Greek authorities on the correct transposition.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 of 11 November 2002 establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund (OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3) as amended by Regulation (EU) No 661/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council of 15 May 2014 (OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 143) and by Regulation (EU) 2020/461 of the European Parliament and the Council of 30 March 2020 (OJ L 99, 31.3.2020, p. 9): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32002R2012>.

<sup>2</sup> [https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/recovery-and-resilience-facility-1/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan\\_en?prefLang=es](https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/recovery-and-resilience-facility-1/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en?prefLang=es).

<sup>3</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.

<sup>4</sup> Either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

<sup>5</sup> Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, 25 June 1998: <https://unece.org/environment-policy/public-participation/aarhus-convention/text>.

<sup>6</sup> Directive (EU) 2024/1069 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on protecting persons who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded claims or abusive court proceedings ('Strategic lawsuits against public participation'): <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1069/oj>.