

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002052/26
to the Commission
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)
(19 May 2026)**

Subject: Cancellation of organic beekeeping and livestock farming programmes in Greece

The Greek authorities recently announced the cancellation of organic beekeeping and organic livestock farming programmes worth a total of EUR 134 million (EUR 19 million and EUR 115 million respectively). The Ministry of Rural Development and Food reached this decision citing widespread irregularities, high rates of non-compliance and serious weaknesses in audit and certification mechanisms.

In particular, of 737 audits carried out on the above-mentioned organic farming programmes, 35% revealed issues and 20.5% of participants withdrew of their own accord, with the combined rate of issues and withdrawals reaching 55.5%. The Ministry of Rural Development and Food has announced that financial penalties have already been imposed on six (6) certification bodies and the suspension of operations in a further three (3) cases.

Finally, according to the Greek Government, funds that had been earmarked for the cancelled measures are to be redirected towards 'other priorities', even though these measures form part of Greece's strategic plan for the common agricultural policy for 2023-2027 and were designed to support organic production.

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

1. Is it aware of the cancellation of these programmes and, if so, how does it assess their management by the Greek authorities?
2. Does it intend to approve the redirection of the above-mentioned resources towards 'other priorities' possibly unrelated to the EU's objectives on sustainable agriculture and organic production?
3. How does it intend to protect compliant producers affected by such a blanket decision?

Submitted: 19.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(9 July 2026)**

Following issues identified by the Commission services concerning the certification of organic production, the Greek authorities decided to cancel the planned interventions for organic beekeeping and organic livestock farming. The Commission is assessing the information provided by the Greek authorities in an ongoing enquiry.

Member States have the obligation to protect the financial interests of the Union and to take all the appropriate measures to this effect.

In this regard, the cancellation of interventions is at the discretion of the Greek authorities taking into consideration the principle of proportionality and the specific circumstances of each case such as that no beneficiaries have been confirmed.

An intervention can be cancelled from the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans and resources under those interventions may be redirected to other interventions following a request for a strategic amendment from the Member State concerned and subject to approval by the Commission ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission was informed that Greece intends to submit a request for an amendment in September 2026. Following a submission, the Commission will assess the consistency of the strategic amendment with Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 ⁽²⁾ and Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 ⁽³⁾, as well as the delegated and implementing acts adopted pursuant to them, and the effective contribution of the strategic amendment to achieving the specific objectives under Regulation (EU) 2021/2115.

⁽¹⁾ Article 119 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/oj>

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2116/oj/eng>.