

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002432/26
to the Commission**

**Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left), Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D), Fernando Barrena Arza (The Left), Gordan Bosanac (Verts/ALE), Mélissa Camara (Verts/ALE), Damien Carême (The Left), Leila Chaibi (The Left), David Cormand (Verts/ALE), Nikolas Farantouris (S&D), Estrella Galán (The Left), Martin Günther (The Left), Vicent Marzà Ibáñez (Verts/ALE), Rudi Kennes (The Left), Jaume Asens Llodrà (Verts/ALE), Mimmo Lucano (The Left), Ignazio Roberto Marino (Verts/ALE), Tilly Metz (Verts/ALE), Ana Miranda Paz (Verts/ALE), Irene Montero (The Left), Maria Ohisalo (Verts/ALE), Ilaria Salis (The Left), Mounir Satouri (Verts/ALE), Majdouline Sbai (Verts/ALE), Benedetta Scuderi (Verts/ALE), Martin Schirdewan (The Left), Isabel Serra Sánchez (The Left), Marie Toussaint (Verts/ALE), Maria Zacharia (NI)
(12 June 2026)**

Subject: Misuse of EU funds in Athens' Prosfygika district: partnership principle violations and fundamental rights concerns

On 6 June 2025, the Attica Region (Greece) adopted Decision 864/2025 ⁽¹⁾ to redevelop the Prosfygika district in Athens using National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) funds, with the Commission allocating European Regional Development Fund/European Social Fund Plus (ERDF/ESF+) resources ⁽²⁾.

Without consulting the residents, official documents falsely classify the inhabited complex of Prosfygika as 'vacant', circumventing Article 8 of Regulation (EU)2021/1060 ⁽³⁾. Prosfygika is a vibrant community of 400 people, including 50 minors and vulnerable groups, yet EU social inclusion funds are being used to dismantle an existing social housing model via forced evictions ⁽⁴⁾ ⁽⁵⁾.

This threat triggered protests, an international solidarity network, and two hunger strikes — one exceeding 120 days ⁽⁶⁾ — jeopardising lives.

Greece has no national social housing framework, yet the project designates the renovated buildings as social housing — failing to comply with enabling condition 4.4 (Annex IV, Regulation (EU)2021/1060).

1. Was the Commission informed that the complex is inhabited, and does it consider the 'vacant' classification a violation of Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060?
2. Will the Commission suspend reimbursement under Article 15(6) until Greece's compliance with enabling condition 4.4 is ensured and civil society participation is guaranteed?
3. Given the severe risk to life, what steps will it take to avoid displacement, fundamental rights violations, and further risks to the hunger strikers?

Supporters ⁽⁷⁾

¹ Attica Region Decision on Prosfygika: <https://diavgeia.gov.gr/decision/view/9%CE%99%CE%98%CE%987%CE%9B7-%CE%9F%CE%A9%CE%96>.

² Commission Implementing Decision C(2026)0158 of 16 February 2026.

³ ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1060/oj>.

⁴ Statements by Attica Region official sources: <https://www.newmoney.gr/roh/palmos-oikonomias/ependyseis/xekina-to-schedio-axiopiisis-gia-ta-prosfigika-tis-leoforou-alexandras-pics/>.

⁵ Press briefing by Government Spokesperson P. Marinakis: <https://www.government.gov.gr/enimerosi-ton-politikon-sintakton-ke-antapokriton-xenou-tipou-apo-ton-ifipourgo-para-to-prothipourgo-ke-kivernitiko-ekprosopo-pavlo-marinaki-48/>.

⁶ Hellenic Parliament Question on the hunger strike (Prot. 817, 30/04/2026): https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/Koinovouleutikos-Elenchos/Mesa-Koinovouleutikou-Elegxou?pcm_id=88e5d5ef-16aa-49c0-b898-b43c00f9566d.

⁷ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Özlem Demirel (The Left), Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE), Elena Kountoura (The Left), Leoluca Orlando (Verts/ALE), Saskia Bricmont (Verts/ALE).

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(19 August 2026)

1. In February 2026, the Commission approved the mid-term review of the Attica 2021-2027 Programme. This includes, under the European Regional Development Fund specific objective 4.7 'Promoting access to affordable and sustainable housing', an action aiming to support the restoration and energy-efficient renovation of a housing complex on Alexandra Avenue in Athens, owned by the Region, to make it available primarily to vulnerable groups. Prior to Commission's approval, the programme amendment was approved by the monitoring committee, including the partners ⁽¹⁾.
2. The thematic enabling condition 4.4 is not applicable to the above action which falls under the specific objective 4.7 ⁽²⁾.
3. Cohesion policy is under shared management; therefore, Member States are responsible for selecting projects and overseeing their implementation. Throughout the design and implementation of support, including the selection of operations, horizontal principles ⁽³⁾, including the respect for fundamental principles under the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, must be respected. Member States are also required to have mechanisms ⁽⁴⁾ in place to ensure compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU ⁽⁵⁾.

The proposed Council Recommendation on fighting housing exclusion ⁽⁶⁾ emphasises long-term person-centred solutions and prevention to housing exclusion and homelessness. It highlights the need for development of mitigation measures and cooperation mechanisms to reduce eviction and homelessness risks. The European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter ⁽⁷⁾ require legal protection for those facing eviction. This includes also consulting affected parties for alternative solutions and guaranteeing dignified, alternative accommodation when evictions occur.

⁽¹⁾ In accordance with Article 8 of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) (EU) 2021/1060: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02021R1060-20260701>.

⁽²⁾ In accordance with Annex IV of the CPR (EU) 2021/1060 that thematic enabling condition 4.4 applies to the European Regional Development Fund specific objective 4.4 'Promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities low income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services'.

⁽³⁾ Article 9 and Article 73 of the CPR (EU) 2021/1060.

⁽⁴⁾ Including (1) arrangements to ensure compliance of the programmes supported by the Funds and their implementation with the relevant provisions of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, and (2) reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the Charter and complaints regarding the Charter.

⁽⁵⁾ Annex III of the CPR (EU) 2021/1060 on horizontal enabling conditions applicable to all specific objectives and the criteria for the assessment of their fulfilment, including 'Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU'. This is assessed by the Commission in conformity with Article 15 of the CPR (EU) 2021/1060.

⁽⁶⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/social-protection-social-inclusion/addressing-poverty-and-supporting-social-inclusion/fighting-housing-exclusion_en.

⁽⁷⁾ The European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter are binding for the individual member states of the Council of Europe. The EU is not a member of the Council of Europe or a signatory of its treaties, thus its Conventions or Charters do not apply directly to or bind the EU (institutions).