(English version)

Question for written answer E-002592/26
to the Commission
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)
(24 June 2026)

Subject: Delays in payments to Olive Producer Organisations' programmes in Greece

Serious disruption has been caused to the Greek olive production sector due to the long delay in the payment of aid for the programmes of Olive Producer Organisations (OEFs). According to industry representatives, approximately 65 olive grower organisations and OEFs, representing more than 20 000 olive producers across the country, have already implemented approved actions and met their obligations, without however receiving the expected funding.

These are programmes that are financed by resources derived from deductions from olive growers and returned to them through actions that enhance competitiveness, quality, education, innovation and sustainability in the Greek olive sector.

These delays create conditions of economic strangulation, an inability to plan future activities, a risk of disruption to the organisations' operations and have serious consequences for workers, producers and local economies.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission monitoring the proper and timely implementation of OEF programmes in Greece, in particular with regard to the payment of planned aid?

2. Does the Commission intend to ask the Greek authorities for a clear schedule of repayment to OEFs?

3. What measures can the Commission take to ensure that payment delays do not undermine the operation of OEFs and support for olive producers?

Submitted: 24.6.2026

Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(1 September 2026)

The Commission closely monitors the proper and timely implementation of the operational programmes for olive oil and table olives in Greece.

Therefore, it is aware of delays affecting both the implementation of the programmes and the disbursement of the aid provided for thereunder. It has accordingly reminded the Greek authorities of their obligation to ensure that payments are made without undue delay.

Under shared management, Greece is primarily responsible for ensuring the correct and timely payment of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) support under the operational programmes for olive oil and table olives, in line with Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 ([1]).

The Commission may request information from the Greek authorities, assess whether national management as well as control systems comply with Union rules and maintain close follow-up with the national authorities, including technical support where appropriate.

The Commission will continue to remain in close contact with the Greek authorities regarding the delays affecting the implementation of these programmes and the related payments.

([1]) Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013.