(English version)

Question for written answer E-002722/26
to the Commission
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)
(1 July 2026)

Subject: Inefficient use of European funds for weather radars and early warning systems in Greece

In the context of EU-funded civil protection and resilience programmes, Greece has announced significant supplies of weather radars, weather stations and nowcasting systems for early warnings concerning extreme weather events. Public sources have talked about projects, funded by the Recovery Fund, the NSRF and the 'Civil Protection 2021-2027' Programme, to replace obsolete radars and extend the national network.

However, despite the repeated announcements, the situation on the ground looks far from reassuring: The country is entering yet another summer season without a reliable and functional weather radar network, with citizens, visitors, farmers and civil protection services exposed to storms, flooding and other extreme weather conditions, without sufficient space-time warnings.

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

1. Does it have detailed data on the amount of European funding committed, formally granted under contract and paid to Greece for weather radars, weather stations and related warning systems since 2019?

2. Has it checked whether the co-financed systems have actually been delivered, installed and put into operation, with measurable indicators of availability and reliability?

3. How can the Commission assist the Greek authorities, technically and institutionally, in speeding up the process of making the co-financed weather radars and early warning systems fully operational, with a clear timeline and transparent information provided to citizens?

Submitted: 1.7.2026

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

While Early Warning System (EWS) is a national responsibility, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism ([1]) enables the Commission to support Member States through the development of various essential monitoring, detection, preparedness and response tools such as Copernicus European Forest Fire Information System ([2]), European Flood Awareness System ([3]) and European Drought Observatory ([4]).

Under Cohesion Policy, the Civil Protection programme (total budget EUR 713 million) ([5]) has funded the following projects: (i) the procurement of meteorological data stations (EUR 10.7 million, to be completed by end of 2026); and (ii) the procurement of equipment for EWS addressing climate-related risks (EUR 14.4 million, to be completed by mid-2027).

In addition, Greece's Recovery and Resilience Plan ([6]) provides funding to strengthen the country's weather monitoring and EWS: the 'Small satellites' measure (EUR 550 million) funds *inter alia* the development of a constellation of earth-observation satellites for disaster detection and monitoring; the TH^{2}ORAX measure (EUR 50 million) funds the development of a real-time situational awareness system to respond to emergency situations, notably climate-related risks. The Commission will assess their completion by the end of 2026.

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([1]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2025%3A548%3AFIN&qid=1752821050670.
([2]) https://forest-fire.emergency.copernicus.eu/.
([3]) https://european-flood.emergency.copernicus.eu/.
([4]) https://drought.emergency.copernicus.eu/tumbo/edo/map/.
([5]) https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/in-your-country/programmes/2021-2027/el/2021el16rfpr001_en.
([6]) https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/reforms-investments-greece_en.