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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.8.2026)

Measure 16735 of the Greek Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)¹ aims to improve physical access to cultural venues, including for older people and persons with disabilities. According to Decision 185395 of 19 December 2022², the construction of the Monemvasia lift was integrated into the Greek RRP under measure 16735 to ensure access for persons with mobility constraints to the upper town of Monemvasia, to speed up access in case of emergency, and to transfer materials for the preservation of monuments.

The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) Regulation³ provides that no measure included in a RRP should do significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852⁴. Decision 185395 of 19 December 2022 sets out that the installation of the lift should be carried out with due regard to the landscape and environment, and that the project should comply with the RRF Regulation including the ‘do no significant harm’ principle. The published call for tender also requires that the project should comply with EU and national environmental and other rules⁵. The granting of building permits and the supervision of construction works fall primarily within the competence of the national authorities. The siting of the project was approved, in accordance with archaeological legislation, by Decision 452351 of 23 September 2021 of the Minister of Culture following the unanimous opinion of the Central Archaeological Council.

The RRF is a performance-based financing instrument. Therefore, the Commission releases funds to Member States only after it has assessed the satisfactory fulfilment of the agreed milestones and targets that are linked to the reforms and investments under the RRP. Payment requests related to this measure have not been submitted by Greece and thus have not yet been assessed by the Commission.

¹ https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/recovery-and-resilience-facility-1/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en.

² https://greece20.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/575.-Anavatorio_Kastro_Monemvasias_5198124.pdf.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0241>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/852/oj/eng>.

⁵ https://monemvasia.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024-04-08_diaxirisi_anavatorio_kastrou-diakiriksi-.pdf.