

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002831/26
to the Commission
Dimitris Tsiodras (PPE)
(8 July 2026)**

Subject: Commission action to address the consequences of the climate crisis and the impact of phenomena such as water scarcity on islands

Both water scarcity and water-related risks are being exacerbated as a result of the climate crisis, as rising temperatures throw the entire water cycle out of kilter. Water scarcity is not only a major challenge for islands and their inhabitants; it also presents a major obstacle to their economic development.

While its water resilience strategy refers to the need to reduce leaks and improve water storage and efficiency, the Commission — beyond its commitment to support innovation in the field of sustainable desalination — does not propose specific measures for island regions.

It is worth noting that the European Commission estimates that the water management investment gap stands at EUR 23 billion per year.

In view of the forthcoming European climate adaptation plan, can the Commission say:

1. What steps will it take to mitigate climate change and ensure sufficient water supply on islands?
2. Does it intend to create specific financial tools to meet the investment needed to modernise infrastructure and address leaks, as well as to fund the research and development of new technologies to address the problem?
3. How will it ensure that any measures taken will meet the needs of islands?

Submitted: 8.7.2026

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

The European Integrated Framework for Climate Resilience ⁽¹⁾, to be adopted by the end of 2026, will set out a strengthened, comprehensive and coherent EU approach to climate resilience and preparedness to become better prepared for and more resilient to the inevitable impacts of climate change, including on islands.

The proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework ⁽²⁾ stipulates that at least 35% of the EU budget should contribute to climate and environmental objectives, including water resilience.

The proposed National and Regional Partnership Plans will contribute to ensuring sustainable prosperity, maintaining quality of life across the Union, and addressing specific needs of islands and coastal areas, feature a climate and environmental contribution of at least 43% ⁽³⁾.

The European Competitiveness Fund ⁽⁴⁾ may also support water resilience and transition to a water-smart economy under its 'Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation' window.

The EU strategy for islands ⁽⁵⁾ recognises that islands face water-related challenges and recommends that Member States prioritise investments in water infrastructure to improve water services and distribution networks and increase water saving and water reuse, while restoring natural water retention.

The mid-term review of cohesion policy encouraged Member States to increase investments in sustainable water management, increased water efficiency, secure access to water and measures enhancing water resilience, resulting in the reallocation of EUR 1.6 billion to islands through cohesion policy programmes, including EUR 158 million for water-related investments.

⁽¹⁾ https://climate.ec.europa.eu/news-other-reads/news/have-your-say-shape-europes-future-world-affected-climate-change-2025-12-01_en.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025PC0565R%2801%29&qid=1753697054840>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/european-competitiveness-fund_en.

⁽⁵⁾ COM (2026) 520 final.