

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003139/26
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(27 July 2026)**

Subject: Completing the Marmara dam in Kavala and strengthening the resilience of rural areas

Pangaio in Kavala is a very important Greek agricultural area with a strong focus on exporting products such as table grapes, kiwis, olives, asparagus and almonds.

However, producers are facing increasing pressures due to water scarcity and increasingly frequent extreme weather events. The Marmara dam, a project of strategic importance for the region, has been left unfinished for decades, depriving farmers of critical irrigation and weather adaptation capabilities.

The EU refers to the sustainable management of water resources as a 'key priority', including through the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), aiming at the protection and sustainable use of water, as well as in the European strategy on adaptation to climate change.

Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 on common provisions for cohesion funds envisages investment that contributes 'to climate adaptation, risk prevention and strengthening the resilience of regions'.

Bearing in mind that regulation (EU) 2021/2115 on CAP strategic plans provides for 'support for investments that contribute to resilience, sustainable water management and adaptation to climate change', can the Commission answer the following:

1. What European funding tools can be used to complete the Marmara dam and the accompanying irrigation networks?
2. Does it intend to encourage Greece to integrate or revise relevant projects under the CAP strategic plans or other funds, especially in light of the increasing water scarcity and the need to strengthen the resilience of the agricultural sector?

Submitted: 27.7.2026

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

The Commission recognises the growing impact of water scarcity and drought on agriculture in Greece. Several EU funding instruments can support investments to improve water resilience and agricultural adaptation.

Under Greece's Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan 2023-2027, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) provides for up to EUR 310 million in support of irrigation-related investments ⁽¹⁾.

As EAFRD support is implemented under shared management, responsibility for the implementation and progress of the project lies with the Greek authorities.

The updated ⁽²⁾ Greek Recovery and Resilience Plan ⁽³⁾ provides for the adoption of a National Water Strategy for the protection and sustainable management of water resources.

In addition, under Horizon Europe work programmes ⁽⁴⁾, Greek entities may participate in research and innovation actions relating to water-smart agriculture, efficient irrigation technologies, reuse, desalination, remote sensing and climate resilience.

The LIFE Programme ⁽⁵⁾ can support pilot, demonstration and best-practice projects in the fields of water, nature, climate adaptation and circular water use.

⁽¹⁾ EU contribution for interventions IP3-73-1.1 and IP3-73-1.4 <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/category/sskap-2023-2027/sskap-egkrisi-tropopoiiseis/>.

⁽²⁾ https://greece20.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/CONSIL_ST_15754_2025_ADD_1_EN_TXT.pdf.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en#repower-eu-measures-in-greeces-plan.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe — the framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination.

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/783 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE).