

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003140/26
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(27 July 2026)

Subject: Reducing irrigation-related energy costs through energy communities in the agricultural sector

Farmers in the regional unit of Kavala, Greece, point out that the high cost of energy for the abstraction and distribution of irrigation water is one of the most significant factors undermining farms' competitiveness. Reliance on boreholes, combined with the reduced availability of water resources, leads to increased energy needs and a further burden on rural incomes.

The revised Directive (EU) 2023/2413 on the promotion of energy from renewable sources (RED III) recognises the role of energy communities and encourages the participation of citizens and local actors in the production and consumption of energy from renewable sources.

With this in mind, can the Commission answer the following:

1. How does it assess the uptake of energy communities by the agricultural sector in the Member States to date?
2. Does it intend to propose additional financial incentives for the creation of energy communities by producer groups and agricultural cooperatives?
3. Does the future CAP envisage special measures to reduce irrigation-related energy costs in areas affected by water scarcity and with increased water abstraction needs?

Submitted: 27.7.2026

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(28 September 2026)

The Commission recognises the key role that citizens can play in the energy transition and the potential of renewable energy to help reduce energy prices.

It has promoted the development of energy communities through legislative ⁽¹⁾ and non-legislative measures ⁽²⁾, and recognises that there is still untapped potential.

To further support the development of energy communities in rural areas, the Commission launched the Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub ⁽³⁾. It helped identify best practices and provided technical assistance to rural energy communities.

Today, the European Energy Community Facility ⁽⁴⁾ provides financial support, in the form of lump sum grants, to emerging energy communities across Europe.

The Citizen Energy Advisory Hub ⁽⁵⁾ provides technical assistance to set up sustainable energy projects, including to rural energy communities and farmers.

The future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) ⁽⁶⁾ will continue to support water resilience in agriculture which can have a positive impact on irrigation-related energy costs.

The proposed new CAP identifies 'environment and climate priority areas', including climate change adaptation and water resilience, for which Member States must provide support to farmers, through interventions under Agri-Environmental and Climate Actions.

Member States will design these interventions in their National and Regional Partnership Plans taking account of their specific needs and circumstances, as well as the Commission's CAP national recommendations.

⁽¹⁾ Such as the directive (EU) 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652, and the directive (EU) 2019/944 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on common rules for the internal market for electricity and amending Directive 2012/27/EU (recast).

⁽²⁾ Such as the recommendation on empowering energy communities and self-consumption C/2026/2850 final.

⁽³⁾ https://wayback.archive-it.org/12090/20240320084824/https://rural-energy-community-hub.ec.europa.eu/index_en.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://energycommunitiesfacility.eu/>.

⁽⁵⁾ https://citizens-energy.ec.europa.eu/index_en.

⁽⁶⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/cap-post-2027-next-eu-budget_en.