

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003213/26
to the Commission
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)
(5 August 2026)

Subject: Recovery and Resilience Facility: assessing the effectiveness of funded forest fire prevention measures in Greece

This year, Greece is once again battling widespread forest fires ⁽¹⁾, with serious environmental, social and economic repercussions and a heavy toll that includes the loss of life of people fighting the flames. Since 2022, the Recovery and Resilience Facility ⁽²⁾ has been used to finance forest fire prevention measures, including the AntiNERO ⁽³⁾ programme, in order to manage flammable forest material, establish and maintain firebreaks and improve the forest road network. EU funding is governed by the principle of sound financial management (Article 317 TFEU and Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509) and the Recovery and Resilience Facility is rooted in the achievement of concrete results.

With this in mind, can the Commission say:

1. Does it assess whether the funded preventive actions are achieving/have achieved the objective of reducing the risk and spread of forest fires in Greece?
2. Does it intend to assess, in cooperation with the Greek authorities, the implementation and effectiveness of the funded projects, the absorption of funds and their compliance with EU law?
3. Has it envisaged, in the next multiannual financial framework, the establishment of mandatory effectiveness indicators for the financing of forest fire prevention projects?

Submitted: 6.8.2026

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

Greece's Recovery and Resilience Plan ⁽¹⁾ (RRP) supports reforestation and fire-prevention actions under measure 16849, with the objective of restoring ecosystems, protecting biodiversity and contributing to carbon regulation.

Under the Facility, the Commission disburses funds to Member States only after verifying that the milestones and targets linked to the reforms and investments have been satisfactorily fulfilled.

Under measure 16849, Greece has fulfilled two milestones relating to the award of contracts for reforestation, nursery modernisation, and anti-erosion and anti-flood works. The final milestone on the completion of these works will be assessed by the Commission under Greece's ninth payment request.

Without prejudice to the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties, Member States are responsible for ensuring that RRP measures comply with EU and national law, including environmental *acquis*.

It is thus for Greek authorities to ensure compliance with applicable EU legislation. The Commission monitors such compliance and may take legal action should Greece fail to implement EU law.

An independent *ex post* evaluation of the Facility and effectiveness of RRP measures is planned for the end of 2028, including analytical studies on reforms and investments and cross-Member State spillovers.

For the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034, the Commission proposed a single methodology to monitor EU budget spending through the Performance Regulation ⁽²⁾.

Annex I to the proposed Regulation, which is currently subject to adoption by the co-legislators, shows the list of intervention fields (IF) and related output and result indicators, including IF 38, IF 276 and IF 503 which address forest fire prevention and management.

¹ <https://fotiestora.gr/>.

² https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/recovery-and-resilience-facility-1/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en.

³ https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/projects/national-reforestation-plan-restoration-and-prevention-antinero-antierosion-and-flood-protection_en.

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

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/DOC/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0545>.