

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003280/26
to the Commission
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)
(14 August 2026)**

Subject: European funding to upgrade the electricity grid and prevent wildfires in Greece

Measure 16900 of the Greek Recovery and Resilience Plan provided for an upgrade of the electricity distribution network in forest areas, involving the replacement of bare wires, the installation of insulation, and undergrounding or power line relocation.

In its 2024-2028 Network Development Plan, the Hellenic Electricity Distribution Network Operator (DEDDIE) states that the measure involves works across 2 086 kilometres of power lines and a budget of EUR 149.8 million. However, while in previous EU documents measures 16900 and 16901 appear as two separate entries with a budget of EUR 40 million and EUR 60 million respectively, SWD(2026)252 shows measure 16900 as 'HEDNO network upgrades' with a budget of EUR 100 million and a broader scope.

Meanwhile, the Greek press, citing the arson investigation unit as its source, has published information on megafire cases that are being investigated because of their potential link to power grid problems, without holding anyone accountable prematurely.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What is the exact current physical and financial scope of measure 16900 and has measure 16901 been fully or partially incorporated into it?
2. How many kilometres of network have been completed and put into operation, for each intervention category and geographical area, and what documentation was used to certify this milestone?
3. What criteria were used to select the specific intervention areas and, during their selection, assess the risk of the electricity grid causing or spreading forest fires, so that interventions could prioritise higher risk areas?

Submitted: 14.8.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(6 October 2026)**

Measure 16900 of the Greek Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) ⁽¹⁾ covers the replacement of bare conductors in the overhead electricity distribution network, the installation of insulating covers, and the undergrounding or rerouting of electricity lines in forest areas and urban zones.

In the context of the modification of the Greek plan, measure 16901 was fully integrated into measure 16900 pursuant to Article 21 of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) Regulation ⁽²⁾.

Under the RRF Regulation, the RRF is a performance-based instrument, with a fixed financial allocation, where the estimated cost of each measure is indicative.

The physical implementation of the measure is reflected in milestone 18 of the annex to the Council Implementing Decision ⁽³⁾, which requires the completion of interventions on 3 370 km of electricity distribution network. This milestone will be assessed by the Commission upon Greece's submission of its ninth and final payment request.

In line with the agreed verification mechanism, the assessment will rely on completion certificates issued under the legal framework governing Hellenic Electricity Distribution Network Operator's (HEDNO) public procurement procedures.

Under the RRF, Member States are responsible for designing and implementing the reforms and investments in their plans. The selection of intervention areas is carried out by HEDNO under its internal guidance and planning procedures. Questions on the selection criteria should therefore be addressed to the competent Greek authorities.

⁽¹⁾ Council Implementing Decision amending the Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Greece 12235/26 of 25 August 2026: https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/document/download/38742827-f6b7-4af3-8064-53509140a615_en?filename=COM_2026_412_1_EN_ACT_part1_v3.pdf and https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/document/download/fd0ef3a8-5298-46b8-ac95-1206e125424c_en?filename=COM_2026_412_1_EN_annexe_proposition_cp_part1_v3.pdf.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility, OJ L 57, 18.2.2021: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02021R0241-20240301>.

⁽³⁾ https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/document/download/fd0ef3a8-5298-46b8-ac95-1206e125424c_en?filename=COM_2026_412_1_EN_annexe_proposition_cp_part1_v3.pdf.