

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003446/26  
to the Commission  
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)  
(2 September 2026)**

*Subject:* Non-inclusion of the planned rent subsidy in the Greek Social Climate Plan

On 27 August 2026, the Commission adopted the Greek Social Climate Plan 2026-2032, totalling approximately EUR 4.77 billion.

The Greek draft that was put out for public consultation in 2025 included action E1.2 in relation to a rent subsidy to approximately 5 500 public officials, in particular health workers, teachers and police officers serving in remote, island and disadvantaged areas, as well as to approximately 8 000 energy-vulnerable households with no possibility of homeownership. This specific action had even been publicly presented by the Greek Government as a measure of the Social Climate Fund.

However, the action is not included in the final approved Plan and only the heating allowance is provided for as direct income support.

Given that Greece submitted the Plan on 27 March 2026, a revised version on 9 July and a final version on 7 August, and that regulation (EU) 2023/955 provides for special consideration of the needs of island, mountainous and remote areas, the Commission is asked:

1. Was action E1.2 included in the versions of 27 March and/or 9 July and, if so, at what stage was it removed, for what reason and at whose initiative?
2. Did the Commission raise an eligibility objection regarding the rental subsidy and, if so, which one exactly?
3. How are the specific housing needs of vulnerable households and public servants in island, mountainous and remote areas now being met?

Submitted: 2.9.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission  
(12 October 2026)**

The Commission works with Member States on their Social Climate Plans (SCPs), using carbon pricing revenues to support vulnerable groups to move to cleaner solutions for buildings and mobility and to protect them from higher energy and transport costs. The Commission must assess that the SCPs are fully in line with the Social Climate Fund (SCF) Regulation <sup>(1)</sup>.

Direct support under the SCF is subject to stricter conditions than other structural measures and investments. Art. 8(2) of the SCF Regulation stipulates that such support is directly linked to the impact of the inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions from buildings and road transport within the scope of Directive 2003/87/EC <sup>(2)</sup>.

The draft proposal for a rental support shared with the Commission before the formal submission did not meet these conditions. It also did not clearly justify prioritising the identified target group over non-relocated residents and other workers.

The endorsed SCP addresses the needs of islands, mountainous and remote areas. It provides higher aid-rate for colder climate regions, offers heating allowance to vulnerable households in all regions, and supports social housing.

In addition, the dedicated Emissions Trading System (ETS) Decarbonisation Fund for the Greek Islands <sup>(3)</sup> finances projects to decarbonise island energy systems with socioeconomic benefits, and over EUR 80 million is earmarked under the European Regional Development Fund for the financing of housing actions, such as student dormitories and social housing, including actions for the housing of public servants in island, mountainous and remote areas.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2023/955 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 May 2023 establishing a Social Climate Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.

<sup>(2)</sup> Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 2003 establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community and amending Council Directive 96/61/EC.

<sup>(3)</sup> This Fund is based on Article 10a(9) of the ETS Directive (2003/87/EC), and the agreement for its implementation was signed in November 2024: [https://climate.ec.europa.eu/news-other-reads/news/executive-vice-president-sefcovic-signs-agreement-between-greece-european-investment-bank-and-2024-11-21\\_en](https://climate.ec.europa.eu/news-other-reads/news/executive-vice-president-sefcovic-signs-agreement-between-greece-european-investment-bank-and-2024-11-21_en).