

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003272/26
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(12 August 2026)**

Subject: Addressing the degradation of Tenagi of Philippi and sustainable water management

Tenagi of Philippi, covering an area of approximately 100,000 hectares, is one of the most productive agricultural areas in Greece, while also hosting the country's only peatland. According to local bodies, the area faces serious problems of soil subsidence, degradation of organic matter, flooding and poor water management, with significant impacts on agricultural production and the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem.

Directive 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive) establishes obligations for the rational management of water resources, while the EU Soil Strategy for 2030 recognises the role of organic soil and peatland in sequestering carbon, maintaining biodiversity and enhancing climate resilience. In addition, Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 regarding strategic plans under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) provides for support for interventions related to the sustainable management of natural resources and adaptation to climate change.

The Commission is asked:

1. Does the situation in Tenagi of Philippi highlight the need for specific measures to maintain the productive capacity of organic soils and the rational management of water?
2. Which EU financial instruments can be used for integrated water management, flood protection, drainage and organic soil restoration projects in the region?
3. Does the Commission intend to encourage Member States, by way of the CAP or other instruments, to develop specific actions to protect highly productive agricultural peatland, with the aim of bolstering food security and the resilience of the primary sector?

Submitted: 12.8.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(15 September 2026)**

The canals of Tenagi of Philippi are part of a Natura 2000 site ⁽¹⁾ designated under the Habitats Directive ⁽²⁾. Member States must take appropriate steps to avoid the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species, as well as significant disturbance of the species for which the sites have been designated.

There are sustainable cultivation options, such as paludiculture, which allow a productive use of peatlands and wetlands while preserving nature and significantly reducing CO₂ emissions.

In addition to national funding, support is available for implementation of EU environmental policy, *inter alia*, through EU funds including Cohesion Policy ⁽³⁾, the Common Agricultural Policy ⁽⁴⁾, Horizon Europe ⁽⁵⁾ as well as EU programmes for the environment and climate action ⁽⁶⁾.

Specific instruments are available to finance measures contributing to investments in water as laid down in the EU Water Resilience Strategy ⁽⁷⁾.

As regards soils, the Commission Staff Working Document 'Guidance on EU funding opportunities for healthy soils' ⁽⁸⁾ provides relevant information on sources of funding.

The Common Agricultural Policy supports voluntary eco-schemes and environmental, climate-related and management commitments that contribute to the achievement of EU environmental and climate goals.

⁽¹⁾ Special area of conservation (SAC) 'Peaks of Mount Pangaios — Pigaia Nera, Kefalariou, Philippi — Arkoudospilia Cave' (site code: GR1150005).

⁽²⁾ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206 22.7.1992, p. 7.

⁽³⁾ <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/themes/2/21-27>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy_en.

⁽⁵⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding_en.

⁽⁶⁾ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en.

⁽⁷⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/environment/water-resilience-strategy_en.

⁽⁸⁾ Commission Staff Working Document — Guidance on EU funding opportunities for healthy soils Accompanying the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Soil Monitoring and Resilience (Soil Monitoring Law), SWD/2023/423 final.

Member States may include interventions specifically addressing the needs of agriculturally used peatlands to contribute to their resilience, as well as to food security.
