

**Question for written answer E-000740/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Direct compensation for Evros flood victims

Following the floods of 12 January in the prefectures of Evros and Rodopi, the residents of Evros have once again been the victims of severe flooding that has claimed the life of one firefighter in the line of duty and wreaked massive destruction.

Many areas of Greece are constantly being afflicted by floods, fires, earthquakes and other natural disasters owing to the lack of necessary prevention and protection infrastructures.

Both the EU and successive Greek governments have been dragging their heels when it comes to channelling funding into specific disaster protection projects, while slow progress is being made on the few that have been selected since they appear unlikely to prove equal to the task once completed, a case in point being the Deriou and Manthia dam projects, which have been on hold for decades.

In the light of this, what view does the Commission take of urgent requests to:

1. provide Solidarity Fund assistance to fully offset losses sustained by working families and the self-employed in the Evros region, without making it subject to unfavourable terms and conditions that deprive victims of direct compensation payments and result in payment being withheld altogether unless the damage amounts to at least 1.5% of the region's GDP;
2. fully compensate farmers for their losses in terms of livestock and infrastructure, including farming equipment, greenhouses, etc.
3. proceed immediately with flood defence projects that have been on the drawing board for years?.