Question for written answer E-004811/2021 to the Commission
Rule 138
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: Unused flood and fire prevention funding

According to Commission data (of 31 August 2021) regarding net payments per Member State, Greece forfeited a total of EUR 5.84 billion over the 2014-2020 programming period. In this connection, flood and fire prevention funding for Greece is estimated at EUR 390 million.

In a joint answer to Questions E-005129/2020 (December 2021) and E-005176/2020/rev.1, the Commissioner responsible for cohesion indicated that Greece had taken up less than one-third of allocated funding by the close of the programming period.

Regarding investment support from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) to restore agricultural production capacity damaged by floods and fires, the Greek Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 earmarked only EUR 40 million for preventive actions, of which only EUR 6 million were eventually channelled into approved projects by December 2020.

While prevention is undoubtedly better than cure, over the last decade at least, Greek governments have been seeking to close the door after the horse has bolted, neglecting to take even such simple precautionary measures as the cleaning of wells.

In view of this:

1. What has been the final take-up by Greece of Cohesion Fund, Regional Development Fund and EAFRD appropriations over the 2014-2020 and subsequent programming period?

2. What projects have been carried out in Greece, particularly in Attica, to deal with floods and fires since 2014?

3. What is the current picture regarding the take-up of project funding under the new flood and fire protection programme?