

**Question for written answer E-001872/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Anne Sander (PPE)

Subject: Use of the European Regional Development Fund for multi-purpose irrigation projects

Every year, climate change is resulting in an increasing number of drought periods that are directly affecting our continent. These phenomena have a severe impact on certain territories and are particularly harmful to European farmers.

Multi-purpose irrigation systems are a potentially interesting water management solution. However, the financing of such projects remains complex. The Commission has already laid down the conditions for using the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) for agricultural irrigation, but has not clarified how the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) can be used for multi-purpose irrigation projects. However, there now seems to be an urgent need for additional funding to develop and install such systems.

In light of the above, how does the Commission intend to expand, in future programmes, use of the ERDF to finance certain multi-purpose irrigation projects in order to respond as effectively as possible to the growing water management problem in Europe?

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