

Question for written answer E-002181/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Maria Spyraiki (PPE)

Subject: Funding for flood prevention measures to prevent Thessaloniki from being submerged

According to a recent UN report, extreme weather conditions and climate change occurring in the last 50 years have claimed the lives of 2 million people and caused material damage worth USD 4.3 trillion in the period between 1976 and 2021. During this period, some 11 778 major disasters were recorded. Between 2020 and 2021, extreme weather conditions caused 22 607 deaths worldwide. The death toll would have been nearer 50 000 had it not been for early warning systems. Experts are saying that Thessaloniki can expect between five and eight floods a year over the coming decade (2023-2033). Large sections of coastline spanning a number of areas along the Thessaloniki seafront, all the way to the Axios Delta, risk being submerged, including Aristotelous Square¹. Residents of the municipality of Pavlos Melas already suffer frequent damage to their property as a result of floods caused by heavy rainfall².

In view of this and following on from my written question E-002939 submitted on 5 September 2022³, can the Commission say:

1. What EU funding is currently available, under the programmes mentioned by the Commissioner in response to my previous question, for prevention projects and/or compensation for damage caused by natural disasters?
2. What proportion of these funds has been used, especially in the Central Macedonia region and Thessaloniki in particular?

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¹ https://www.typosthes.gr/thessaloniki/317742_bythizetai-i-thessaloniki-ypobryhia-i-plateia-aristotelouys-mehritin-tsimiski

² <https://www.grtimes.gr/ellada/kinitopoiiseis-plimmyropathon-toy-dimoy-payloy-mela-quot-na-vgoyn>

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2022-002939_EL.html