

**Question for written answer E-003625/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Petros Kokkalis (The Left)

Subject: Environmental disaster due to flood defences – Megalo Rema Rafinas

After the disastrous floods in Thessaly, the Greek government requested an expert opinion as to their causes from the Dutch company HVA International, which specialises in water management. HVA's conclusions and the EIB's revised position (17 November 23) emphasise the need for a review of flood protection measures using nature-based solutions.

In spite of this, the Greek government has ignored the findings which it requested and is continuing the works without modifications, e.g. turning the Megalo Rema Rafinas, the last free-flowing river in Attica, into a concrete channel, and felling a large number of trees (about 2 000). This is a wetland habitat with significant biodiversity. Residents in the area, with the support of recognised NGOs, have requested interim measures to suspend operations, and have submitted complaints to the lending banks (EIB, CEB). The project is financed by Community funds (NSRF 2014-2020).

In view of this:

1. Should a project of this importance and scale be redesigned in accordance with the Nature Restoration Law, combining mitigation with natural solutions?
2. Can the Commission, through the Structural Funds, continue financing projects which are entirely contrary to the European Green Deal, even if their design commenced before the Green Deal was approved?

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