

**Question for written answer E-001065/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Petros Kokkalis (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Master plan for water management in Thessaly

Following the devastating floods that hit Thessaly last September, the master plan for water management in the region¹ is now under public consultation. The plan ignores ecosystem services for climate proofing and protecting water resources and instead focuses on big construction projects, including 23 medium-sized and large dams, river deepening projects, the deforestation of riparian vegetation, the construction of 130 km of new dykes and the diversion of Achelous River.

Considering: (a) the fact that on 13 March the Commission referred Greece to the ECJ² for its failure to finalise the revision of its river basin management plans as required under the Water Framework Directive³ and of its flood risk management plans as required under the Floods Directive⁴; (b) the objections expressed by global environmental organisations⁵; and (c) the establishment of the for-profit Thessaly Water Management Association SA⁶, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Are the proposed master plan and the establishment of the new association in line with EU law and specifically with Directives 2000/60/EC and 2007/60/EC?
2. Does it not agree that, as required under Directive 2001/42/EC, a strategic environmental impact assessment should be carried out before any interventions begin in the region, given that environmental impacts are not provided for in the plan's timeline?

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¹ <http://www.opengov.gr/minenv/?p=13282>

² <http://www.opengov.gr/minenv/?p=13282>

³ Directive 2000/60/EC

⁴ Directive 2000/60/EC

⁵ <https://www.wwf.gr/?13367441/----->

⁶ Under the draft law on addressing the wide-ranging impact of climate change in various sectors (<http://www.opengov.gr/minenv/?p=13310>) the responsibility for Thessaly's water is to be transferred to the Thessaly Water Management Association SA, which will manage Thessaly's water (strategic planning, irrigation, land reclamation and flood defence). The association will develop and monitor the implementation of river basin management plans and flood risk management plans, develop master plans for flood defence projects, the planning, construction and maintenance of flood defence structures, the construction, monitoring, maintenance and administration of land reclamation projects and the irrigation network, taking over from all the corresponding land reclamation associations.