

**Question for written answer E-001625/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Addressing prolonged drought and improving water resource management in Greece and the EU

The prolonged drought that has recently been affecting Greece and other parts of Europe has severely impacted aquatic ecosystems, crops and the lives of local inhabitants. In Chalkidiki, farmers are forced to use water tankers to irrigate their olive groves and water scarcity has led to reduced yields and increased levels of water salinity. The increased demand for water because of the tourist season is exacerbating the problem, with many villages facing serious shortages.

Experts say the solution lies in maintaining, storing and reusing water. Meanwhile, the deterioration and unsuitability of existing infrastructure is leading to significant water loss. Furthermore, the climate crisis is expected to exacerbate the prolonged drought phenomenon in the future, making it necessary to put in place strategies for the management of water resources.

In light of this:

1. What measures does the Commission intend to take to support Member States in addressing prolonged drought and to strengthen the sustainable management of water resources?
2. Are there plans to fund projects that focus on maintaining, storing and reusing water, particularly in areas that are severely affected by prolonged drought?
3. How could the Commission help strengthen water infrastructure in areas that are affected by the climate crisis, with a view to reducing water loss and ensuring a sufficient supply of water?

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