



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

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Commission approves EUR 71 million of regional funds for a major flood protection project in Greece

The European Commission has approved an investment of €71.4 million from the Cohesion Fund for a major flood protection project in the Greek region of Western Attica. The bed of the Eshatia River from Iliou Square to the junction with the Epiridon pipeline will be adapted in order to ensure anti-flood protection for the communities of Ilion, Agioi Anargyroi, Kamatero and Fyli.

The project aims to channel this part of the Eschatia river through an underground pipe system. Above this, another project is foreseen, providing amenities to local residents in this highly urbanised area of Athens.

Commenting on the decision, Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn said *"This flood protection project is a concrete and innovative example of how Structural Funds improve the everyday lives of citizens. It will also create jobs and contribute to the revitalization of this part of Athens."*

This project is part of an integrated flood protection project for the whole Eschatia river. It is estimated that 116 000 local residents will benefit from this flood protection measure, while the implementation of the project itself is expected to create 172 jobs.

The European Union will finance €71.4 million out of a total investment of €84 million.

Background:

The main project element is the 'culverting' of the Eschatia river bed into a twin 5x5 rectangular drainage box. The proposed length of the culvert or drain is 3.3km, starting from Ilion square up to the junction with the Epirides torrent. Complementary project elements include a railway bridge and re-alignment / reconstruction of the various public services (sanitation, water supply, storm water pipelines) networks.

This is a so-called "major project", of which the total investment (VAT included) is above €50 million and thus subject to a specific decision by the European Commission, whereas other types of projects are approved at national or regional levels.

More information:

Contact the OP Environment and Sustainable Development Managing Authority

[EU-funded 'Major Projects'](#)

[EU cohesion policy in Greece](#)

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