

EN

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Answer given by Ms Ferreira
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.11.2022)

Following Portugal's request¹, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism facilitated the immediate sending of 2 firefighting airplanes to combat the wildfire emergency. And the EU's Copernicus satellite service has collected data vital to first responders.

The EU Solidarity Fund² can only be activated at the request of the affected country³. Eligible expenditure relates to essential emergency and recovery operations⁴. Cohesion policy has a more structural approach. It supports risk prevention and climate change adaptation in all Member States, strengthening the resilience and reducing vulnerability to extreme weather events. Portugal's Partnership Agreement⁵ has adaptation to climate change and risk management as priority intervention areas. Funds provided under the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the Common Agricultural Policy can also support investments in forest protection and reform, fire prevention and firefighting⁶.

The EU Forest Strategy for 2030⁷ acknowledges the aggravating problem of forest fires, in particular due to climate change, and provides recommendations for enhancing the resilience of forests and forest related risk management practices, including integrated landscape fire management systems. Through the Horizon Europe Cluster⁸ 3 "Civil Security for Society", the Commission will also implement complementary actions in support of Disaster Risk Reduction policies (including forest fires), to enhance capacities in risk and resilience management and governance. Also, the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change⁹ can help European regions to better manage climate change-driven wildfire risks. The Commission has published in 2021 guidelines on prevention of wildfires by land management¹⁰.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_4442

² Regulation (EC) n. 2012/2002 of the Council of 11.11.2002, Art.3(2) - Consolidated TEXT: 32002R2012 — EN — 01.04.2020 (europa.eu).

³ When the total direct damage exceeds EUR 3 billion in 2011 prices or 1.5% of the Gross Domestic Product of a Member State or affected region(s).

⁴ Details on eligible expenditure can be find in Article 3 of the EUSF Regulation.

⁵ Portugal 2030, concluded on 14 July: https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/partnership-agreement-portugal-2021-2027_en

⁶ Over the total amount allocated in the Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs) to climate objectives, 6% is dedicated to climate change adaptation measures. See - Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard, updated to 15/08/2022 ([Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/scoreboard))

⁷ COM (2021) 572.

⁸ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

⁹ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/adaptation-climate-change_en

¹⁰ [Land-based wildfire prevention - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/land-based-wildfire-prevention/)