Question for written answer E-001931/2024
to the Commission
Rule 144
André Rodrigues (S&D)

Subject: Solidarity and funding to renovate the Divino Espírito Santo Hospital in the Azores

On 4 May 2024, a major fire broke out at the Divino Espírito Santo Hospital (DESH) in Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Azores, putting it out of action. The entire hospital had to be evacuated, with patients being moved into alternative accommodation. The health care system and services on the island and in the wider region also had to be reorganised.

DESH is the largest health facility in the region and the hospital for the other health centres, giving it an important role on the island and in the region as a whole. The disaster has therefore considerably disrupted health care and has had a significant financial impact on the Azores region's health service and budget.

1. Has Portugal activated the EU Solidarity Fund to help cover the costs of this disaster and quickly restore the hospital? If so, how much funding has been requested?

2. What other EU funding is available to the region and Member State to quickly restore and improve a crucial health facility in one of the EU's outermost regions?

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