

Question for written answer E-003541/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
João Oliveira (The Left)

Subject: EU aid for Portugal and common agricultural policy options to combat major forest fires

Portugal has again been racked by catastrophic forest fires, killing several people and causing untold damage to property and the environment. Thousands of small-scale farmers and forest producers have seen their assets and incomes go up in smoke, and the sheer size of the fire-ravaged area, some 250 000 hectares this year – a quarter of the area burned in all the Member States together – calls for urgent intervention.

The state of forests, farming and rural areas in Portugal is linked to the impact of the common agricultural policy (CAP), of policies that have had a hand in the closure of 400 farms in recent decades, along with the failure, owing to severe budgetary constraints, of public services and state structures, and the domination of economic groups with regard to the price of wood. Meanwhile, Portugal is facing increasing difficulties – also owing to a paucity of funds – in combating large-scale forest fires.

Given this urgent state of affairs:

What steps, financial means, and political options – including within the framework of the CAP – will the Commission take to support countries like Portugal that have been plagued year after year by the tragedy of major forest fires?

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