

**Question for written answer E-003782/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Joachim Streit (Renew)

Subject: Safeguarding the EU's fire-fighting capacity in the face of increasing climate-related forest and vegetation fires

According to Eurostat, the number of professional firefighters in the EU fell by 18 200 to 372 400 in 2025 – the worst year for forest fires in the EU's history to date. Member States subject to the EU's excessive deficit procedure, such as Poland (-9 000) and France (-4 100), are particularly affected. On 16 July 2025, as part of its proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028–2034 (MFF), the Commission presented a new sectoral programme on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), aimed at implementing the European Preparedness Union Strategy and strengthening rescEU.

1. How does the Commission assess the timing of national deficit procedures with regard to staff cuts in professional fire services, and does it plan to address this conflict of objectives between fiscal rules and climate adaptation in the ongoing MFF negotiations?
2. Will the new UCPM sector programme provide targeted funding to maintain the infrastructure of voluntary fire brigades in rural, structurally disadvantaged regions such as Rhineland-Palatinate, which bear a growing share of the operational burden?
3. Does the Commission plan to present an EU-wide legal framework or a recommendation on the protection and recognition of the status of volunteer firefighters?

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