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E-001407/2024

Answer given by Ms Ferreira
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.9.2024)

On 27 August 2024, the Commission adopted a proposal¹ to the budgetary authority² to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund for assistance for disaster recovery operations to Emilia-Romagna, following the heavy floods in 2023. An advance payment of EUR 94.7 million was approved in 2023 out of the total amount of support proposed of EUR 378.8 million.

In the 2021-2027 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programme³ the region introduced a specific action to tackle hydrogeological and flooding risks. The Programme contains specific measures to prevent hydrogeological risks with nature-based solutions under action 2.4.2, in Priority 2. For this EUR 13.2 million of ERDF resources are allocated.

With Emilia-Romagna's 2014-2020 ERDF Programme⁴, the region decided not to finance climate adaptation – including hydrogeological risk – due to concurring national and regional financing. The Development and Cohesion Fund is an entirely nationally funded Italian instrument, with management and monitoring responsibilities at the national and regional levels. The Commission does not oversee the implementation of projects funded by this instrument.

¹ COM(2024)325 - Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Greece and France relating to six natural disasters occurred in 2023 --<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2024:325:FIN>

² European Parliament and Council.

³ Commission Implementing Decision C(2022)5379 of 22 July 2022: Regional Programme Emilia-Romagna ERDF 2021-2027: <https://projects.research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/restore-our-ocean-and-waters/regional-programme-emilia-romagna-erdf-2021-2027>

⁴ Commission Implementing Decision C(2015)928 of 12 February 2015 as last amended by Decision C(2020)8383 of 25 November 2020: OpenCoesione - ROP ERDF Emilia-Romagna (Programming documents) <https://opencoesione.gov.it/en/dati/programmi/2014IT16RFOP008/documenti/>