

EN
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Answer given by Mr Lenarčič
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF) can be activated at the request of Greece if the total direct damage exceeds the thresholds specified in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002¹. The EUSF may cover part of the costs for emergency and recovery operations incurred by public authorities.

The region of Attica can also benefit from the regional programme ‘Attica 2021-2027’², which allocated EUR 8.2 million for fire risk prevention and management actions. Furthermore, the region can benefit from funding through two thematic programmes of the 2021-2027 period, namely the ‘Civil protection’ programme³ and the ‘Environment and climate change’ programme⁴. The budget for fire risk prevention and management under these programmes amounts to EUR 327.7 million and EUR 57.1 million respectively.

Under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)⁵, the production of 12 firefighting planes to make up the permanent rescEU fleet was launched in August 2024, following government-to-government agreements signed by a number of Member States with the Canadian Commercial Corporation. The planes will be financed by the Commission and will become the backbone of the EU's crisis response capabilities to tackle wildfires.

The Commission also works with national civil protection authorities to support, complement, and coordinate their efforts in wildfire risk management. This includes peer reviews⁶ to assess a country's wildfire risk management system. Wildfire prevention is also supported through UCPM grants⁷ under the Technical assistance for disaster risk management⁸ and the Knowledge for action in prevention and preparedness⁹. In May 2024, the Commission also published good practices in wildfire risk awareness and communication¹⁰.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32002R2012>

² https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/in-your-country/programmes/2021-2027/el/2021el16ffpr017_en

³ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/in-your-country/programmes/2021-2027/el/2021el16ffpr001_en

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/in-your-country/programmes/2021-2027/el/2021el16ffpr003_en

⁵ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en

⁶ <https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/disaster-prevention-and-risk-management/ucpm-peer-review-programme>

⁷ <https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/projects/fireprime> and <https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/projects/b-fireprep>

⁸ <https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/UCPM-Track-1-grants>

⁹ <https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/knowledge-action-prevention-preparedness>

¹⁰ <https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/news/new-good-practice-guide-wildfire-risk-awareness-and-communication#:~:text=Wildfires.%20The%20new%20publication%20underscores%20the%20urgency%20to%20strengthen%20wildfire>