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Answer given by Mr Serafin
on behalf of the European Commission
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The impacts of floods can indeed be very severe; hence, the Commission adopted a legislative package amending Cohesion and Common Agriculture Policy rules to support and ease the budgetary pressure on affected Member States. These legal changes would allow for up to 100% EU funding of certain post-flood projects.

When it comes to EU funding, the priority is to ensure the use of the resources available under the current budget¹ and NextGenerationEU investment projects². The design of the future Multiannual Financial Framework and its instruments³ will need to start with ‘what’ we want to finance to then see ‘how’ the EU can best deliver on its objectives and maximise results on the ground.

Looking forward, a more robust approach to European crisis management and civil preparedness is needed, shifting from reaction to proactive readiness, which also applies beyond crisis management. This requires a modernised and more flexible budget and, as per the President of the Commission’s political guidelines⁴, to step up the work on climate resilience and preparedness. As part of its future European Climate Adaptation Plan⁵, the Commission will map the risks and preparedness needs and assess the need for future legislation on climate resilience and preparedness and present options⁶.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget_en

² https://next-generation-eu.europa.eu/index_en

³ The recast of the Financial Regulation sets out that post-2027 programmes, where feasible and appropriate in accordance with the relevant sector-specific rules, are to be implemented to achieve their set objectives without doing significant harm to the environmental objective of climate change adaptation.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf

⁵ https://commission.europa.eu/document/27658b9f-f1f8-4e3a-b265-1ccbd7c2af82_en

⁶ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/eab354d1-64d2-450f-8ed4-eb3d42661974_en?filename=mission-letter-hoekstra.pdf