

EN

E-002208/2024

Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.1.2025)

The European Climate Risk Assessment confirmed that Europe is experiencing the impacts of climate change and that these will worsen with further warming, southern Europe is a hotspot for multiple climate risks and islands in the Mediterranean are especially sensitive to climatic changes¹. The Commission takes many climate adaptation actions also covering freshwater availability and agriculture as committed in the EU Adaptation Strategy² and the Communication on Managing Climate Risks³. Progress on implementation of the strategy has been reported⁴.

Public and private actors are supported through several EU spending programmes and instruments under the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, such as the European Regional Development Fund⁵, the Cohesion Fund⁶, funding under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)⁷ - among others to farmers, forest holders and rural communities through the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and in the Rural Development Programme 2014-2022, the EU programme for the environment and climate action⁹ and Horizon Europe¹⁰. They are complemented by additional support under the NextGenerationEU funding, in particular the Recovery and Resilience Facility¹¹.

The Commission will step up work on climate resilience and preparedness, among others through a European Climate Adaptation Plan. Climate resilience of food production will also be addressed in the EU Vision for Agriculture, while the objective of the European Water Resilience Strategy will be to preserve water quality and quantity in the EU and beyond, enhance the competitive innovative edge of our water industry, and address the root causes of water challenges, including pollution, scarcity and the impacts of climate change.

¹ European Environment Agency, European Climate Risk Assessment, 2024.

² EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, COM(2021) 82 final.

³ COM(2024) 91 final.

⁴ SWD(2023) 338 final.

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/erdf/

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/cohesion-fund/

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/rural-development_en

⁸ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy_en

⁹ LIFE, https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en

¹⁰ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/horizon-europe_en

¹¹ https://next-generation-eu.europa.eu/index_en