

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000960/25
to the Commission
Geadis Geadí (ECR)
(6 March 2025)**

Subject: Measures to support fire response, particularly in southern Member States

Every summer, European Union countries are faced with devastating fires, which endanger forests, citizens and biodiversity. The consequences of such phenomena are irreversible and directly and indirectly affect the economy and quality of life of every country affected by them. The combination of high temperatures and drought raises the level of risk, making immediate and effective intervention by EU mechanisms and services imperative wherever and whenever needed.

Accordingly:

1. What specific measures has the Commission put in place to improve and strengthen the Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM), so that all the services involved are at high levels of operational readiness?
2. What measures has the Commission put in place to improve coordination between Member States to ensure the delivery of aid, particularly to the southern Member States?

Submitted: 6.3.2025

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(25 April 2025)**

Strengthening the EU's wildfire response capacity is a key priority under the EU Disaster Resilience Goals ⁽¹⁾. Since 2014, the Commission has established firefighting reserves under the European Civil Protection Pool (ECPP) ⁽²⁾ to help countries respond to wildfire emergencies.

In 2019, the ECPP was complemented by the EU's strategic reserve rescEU ⁽³⁾ under which the Commission is developing a permanent rescEU wildfire fleet, set to be operational by early 2028.

In 2024, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) ⁽⁴⁾ was activated 16 times for wildfires ⁽⁵⁾. Ground teams from 12 countries were pre-positioned in Spain, Portugal, Greece, and France to support local brigades and enhance interoperability. The pre-positioning of firefighters will continue in 2025.

To improve readiness, the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) is using early warning systems ⁽⁶⁾ for better situational awareness and is advancing artificial intelligence driven fire detection and behaviour analysis.

Regular lessons learnt meetings help Member States share best practices on wildfire management, risk awareness, and integrated response strategies.

The Wildfire Peer Review Programme ⁽⁷⁾ assesses national wildfire management and provides recommendations. The Wildfire Support Team of the ERCC supports operations with monitoring, coordination, and reporting activities.

The Preparedness Union Strategy will help the EU and its Member States to better anticipate, prevent and prepare for emergencies, including natural and man-made disasters like wildfires.

⁽¹⁾ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/european-disaster-risk-management/european-disaster-resilience-goals_en

⁽²⁾ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/european-civil-protection-pool_en

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/stories/resceu/index_en.html

⁽⁴⁾ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en

⁽⁵⁾ Seven times by Member States and six times by participating states to the UCPM, mobilising 17 planes, 6 helicopters, and 8 ground teams from rescEU, ECPP, and spontaneous contributions by other countries.

⁽⁶⁾ Such as the European Forest Fire Information System.

⁽⁷⁾ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/peer-review-programme_en