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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.6.2025)

The mid-term review of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) was concluded in 2024, reinforcing the EU budget in key priority areas. The Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve was increased by EUR 1.5 billion.

The Regional Emergency Support to Reconstruction - RESTORE Regulation¹ allows for flexibility by Member States impacted by natural disasters to use cohesion policy funding for reconstruction and repair. The Rural Development Regulation² was amended to introduce a new measure, providing support to affected farmers, foresters, and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.

Member States could adjust their 2021-2027 cohesion policy programmes during their mid-term review³, adding new priorities like enhancing water resilience. Greece could benefit from these flexibilities once the Regulation enters into force, including the financial incentives to implement these priorities rapidly and effectively.

The 2021-2027 cohesion policy programmes contribute EUR 1 billion to a national disaster risk management programme in Greece and EUR 10.5 million to a regional programme on climate-related risk management in Notio Aigaio⁴.

The EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change can help the Cyclades and other islands test and deploy innovative solutions to build resilience to floods and other climate risks, as with Climate adaptation and resilience demonstrated in the Mediterranean region (CARDIMED) project⁵.

Island regions face specific challenges, including suffering from extreme natural disasters that call for significant investments not only in post-disaster recovery but also in climate

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/3236 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2024 amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1057 and (EU) 2021/1058 as regards Regional Emergency Support to Reconstruction (RESTORE), entered into force on 24 December 2024, available at the following link <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/3236/oj/eng>.

² Regulation (EU) 2024/3242 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2024 amending Regulation (EU) 2020/2220 as regards specific measures under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development to provide additional assistance to Member States affected by natural disasters, available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R3242&qid=1746172978914>.

³ On 1 April 2025 the Commission tabled a legislative proposal and accompanying Communication. Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1058 and (EU) 2021/1056 as regards specific measures to address strategic challenges in the context of the mid-term review, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/communication/mid-term-review-2025/regulation-proposal-mid-term-review-2025_en.pdf; Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council A modernised Cohesion policy: The mid-term review, available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0163>.

⁴ Technical assistance, including under the 'Cohesion for Transitions Community of Practice' initiative, could support the implementation of the programmes facilitating the green transition and for studies.

⁵ Climate Resilience & NBS | Cardimed: <https://www.cardimed-project.eu/>.

adaptation and resilience. As announced in the Communication ‘A modernised cohesion policy: the mid-term review’, the Commission will launch a consultation on the development of a Strategy for Islands to support them address their multi-faceted problems.