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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.7.2025)

Protecting migrant workers from labour exploitation and ensuring their adequate working and living conditions is a priority for the Commission¹. The EU legal migration Directives² and the Charter of Fundamental Rights provide that migrant workers should live decently and have a right to fair working conditions. The Seasonal Workers Directive³ provides for a right to accommodation with an adequate standard of living. The Employers Sanctions Directive⁴ grants migrants who reside and work illegally rights to ensure they are informed about their entitlements from illegal employment and can lodge complaints. The Commission monitors the implementation of these directives by Member States. Migrants' access to adequate housing is also a priority of the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-27⁵.

The EU Solidarity Fund can be activated at the request of Greece within 12 weeks after the damage occurred, demonstrating that the total damage exceeds the required thresholds⁶. It may cover part of the costs for emergency and recovery operations incurred by public authorities. Private damage is not eligible. The European Regional Development Fund supports Greece with some EUR 141 million for social infrastructure for vulnerable groups. The European Social Fund Plus can support housing-related interventions for vulnerable groups but does not fund housing provision directly. In Greece, EUR 224.3 million are programmed for measures to enhance access to quality services. Regional programmes fund shelters for homeless people and housing assistance. The Helios+ programme⁷ supports migrant integration, including accommodation support.

¹ Political Guidelines 2024-2029: https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf.

² Notably the Seasonal Workers Directive (2014/36/EU) and the Single Permit Directive (2011/98/EU).

³ Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers, OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/36/oj>.

⁴ Directive 2009/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009 providing for minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals, OJ L 168, 30.6.2009, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2009/52/oj/eng>.

⁵ COM(2020) 758 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52020DC0758>.

⁶ As specified in Article 2, Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 of 11 November 2002 establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund, OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2002/2012/oj/eng>.

⁷ <https://greece.iom.int/helios>.