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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.8.2025)

The ‘Special report 16/2025: EU funding to tackle forest fires’¹ of the European Court of Auditors states that, in September 2023, the Commission launched a pilot stocktaking exercise to assess EU measures addressing forest fires in Greece and Italy. However, this exercise was conducted internally, and the results will not be publicly released.

In September 2023, Italian authorities requested a thematic peer review of the wildfire risk management capabilities² within the Union Civil Protection Mechanism Peer Review Programme. The report provides recommendations to enhance wildfire resilience, including on financing wildfire risk management and suggesting technical assistance to regions in preparing projects or studies for large investments and an exchange of good practices among them through a dedicated network. It includes recommendations on prevention and preparedness measures and needed reforms.

The 2021-2027 Regional Programme for Sicily allocates EUR 55 million from the European Regional Development Fund to fire risk prevention and management. Under shared management, the selection of operations is a responsibility of the Region of Sicily. According to the region, EUR 32 million have been allocated to fire prevention strategies and fire-fighting response capacity selection, as per the Regional Forest Fire Plan; such selection is either concluded or on-going. EUR 3 million are allocated to prevention and risk awareness actions in the context of parks and protected areas; the selection of the operations has not yet started.

¹ <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications/SR-2025-16>.

² https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/system/files/2025-01/wildfire-peer-review-it_final-report-2024_0.pdf.