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E-002517/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(22.8.2025)

The EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF)<sup>1</sup> can only be activated at the request of Greece which has a deadline of 12 weeks as from when the first damage occurred, demonstrating that the total direct damage exceeds the thresholds specified in Article 2 Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002. The EUSF may cover a part of the costs for emergency and recovery operations incurred by public authorities<sup>2</sup>. Private damage is not eligible.

Wildfire preparedness is high on the Commission's agenda. The Commission is strategically pre-positioning and co-financing the stay of 650 firefighters in wildfire-prone countries<sup>3</sup> this summer to ensure faster response times and valuable knowledge sharing.

For the 2025 wildfire season, the EU has 22 firefighting airplanes and 4 helicopters available from the rescEU transitional fleet and the European Civil Protection Pool, stationed in 10 countries. These capacities stand ready for Member States, should they request assistance through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

The EU has allocated significant financial resources to build a permanent rescEU firefighting fleet. This will consist of 12 medium amphibious planes and 5 helicopters, financed by the EU budget, which will enter service progressively, with the first helicopter expected in 2026 and the first airplanes from early 2028. This will make an additional boost for European wildfire preparedness for the coming years.

Under the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy programmes, a total public funding of around EUR 3 billion has been allocated for the prevention and management of fire risks in the Member States. EUR 421 million from this amount has been assigned to Greece. The Greek recovery and resilience plan<sup>4</sup> funds investments in wildfire prevention and response worth over EUR 850 million.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 of 11 November 2002 establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund (OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3) as amended by Regulation (EU) No 661/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council of 15 May 2014 (OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 143) and by Regulation (EU) 2020/461 of the European Parliament and the Council of 30 March 2020 (OJ L 99, 31.3.2020, p. 9). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32002R2012>.

<sup>2</sup> This means, for example, the recovery of essential infrastructure, provision of temporary accommodation to the population, cleaning-up operations, and protection of the cultural heritage.

<sup>3</sup> Namely in Greece, Portugal, Spain, Italy and France.

<sup>4</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en).