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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
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Member States are primarily responsible for civil protection and the EU can support through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)¹. After a request for assistance, the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) supports with offers from Member States and resources from the European Civil Protection Pool². If these are insufficient, rescEU can be deployed with defined criteria³.

On 23 July 2025, Cyprus activated the UCPM and the ERCC responded with planes from Spain and Sweden, but Cyprus declined it as conditions improved. A Greek team assisted from 25 to 27 July 2025. In addition, the two rescEU planes stationed in Cyprus from June to October 2025 joined the operations.

In the 2025 State of the Union⁴, the President of the Commission proposed a European hub in Cyprus for regional support. Discussions on its setup are ongoing.

Some EU programmes can support Cyprus in restoration. The EU Solidarity Fund offers recovery support and can be activated upon request with a deadline of 12 weeks from the time of the first damage⁵, covering costs for emergency and recovery, but not private damages.

Under the 2021–2027 Cohesion Policy, Member States can use cohesion funds for investments in risk prevention and management⁶. Member States affected by natural disasters during 2024–2025 can use the Regional Emergency Support to Reconstruction⁷ flexibility to reallocate resources for infrastructure reconstruction and socio-economic recovery. Member States handle implementation under the Cohesion Policy's shared management principle.

Funds under measure 8⁸ of the Cypriot Rural Development Programme 2014-2022, have been used for prevention and restoration of damage to forests from fires, natural disasters and catastrophic events, with an execution rate of 92%. Corresponding interventions are included in the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan 2023-2027⁹.

¹ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en.

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

³ The criteria are pre-defined in Article 34 of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/704 - https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2025/704/oj/eng.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/state-union/state-union-2025_en.

⁵ Article 4 of the Consolidated text Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 of 11 November 2002 establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02002R2012-20140628>.

⁶ 'Thalia' programme in the case of Cyprus, https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/in-your-country/programmes/2021-2027/cy/2021cy16ffpr001_en.

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/whats-new/newsroom/18-12-2024-commission-welcomes-adoption-of-restore-proposal-helping-member-states-recover-from-climate-related-disasters_en#:~:text=RESTORE%20allows%20Member%20States%20affected%20by%20climate-related%20disasters,temporarily%20support%20the%20financing%20of%20short-time%20work%20schemes.

⁸ Namely sub-measures 8.3 and 8.4.

⁹ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/cap-my-country/cap-strategic-plans_en#:~:text=EU%20countries%20implement%20the%202023-

