

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003540/25
to the Commission
João Oliveira (The Left)
(15 September 2025)**

Subject: Fires in Portugal and funds for investment in forests

The fact that some 250 000 hectares have been ravaged by fire in Portugal this year — a quarter of the area burned in all EU Member States — calls for urgent intervention.

Despite the disastrous events in previous years and the ensuing set of technical recommendations, which have yet to be implemented, policies involving the abandonment of land and disinvestment in forests continue to be pursued. For example, EUR 114 million has been cut from support for investment in forests (as part of the reprogramming of the common agricultural policy strategic plan).

Policies are needed that provide more public financing for action in Portugal and stronger support for family farming and the countryside, guaranteeing fair prices for production, starting with the price of timber.

In view of the above:

1. What EU financing can be made available to Portugal to step up public investment in forests, to establish teams of forest firefighters and to bolster the structures of the state, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests (ICNF), among others?
2. What EU financing can be made available to Portugal to restructure the civil protection system, providing public management of State Emergency Communications Network (SIRESP) and to acquire the air assets needed to fight fires?

Submitted: 15.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(14 November 2025)**

1. In 2014-2027, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is supporting the investments in the forest of the mainland Portugal, with more than EUR 588 million to farmers, and private and public forest holders.

Moreover, the Portuguese Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) allocates over EUR 600 million to forest management. Among its key investments is 'Means to Prevent and Combat Rural Fires' (EUR 89 million), funding the enhancement of infrastructure and equipment for both the Portuguese Air Force and the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF). This investment funds acquisition of firefighter helicopters and building construction (EUR 70 million), vehicles, machinery, equipment, and upgrades to the meteorological radar network (together EUR 19 million). Additionally, the 'Landscape Transformation in Vulnerable Forest Areas' (EUR 270 million) is a crucial preventive investment, backing initiatives like land management changes, vegetation adaptation, and ecosystem restoration.

2. The RRP also supports Portugal's civil protection system with funding for the National Internal Security Network project (EUR 17 million), IT systems updates and a new data centre for national security. It also funds the State Emergency Communications Network (SIRESP) project (EUR 37 million), including ground infrastructure and a Disaster Recovery Centre.

Finally, to support Member States under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, the Commission can coordinate peer reviews of disaster risk management and civil protection systems⁽¹⁾. The Commission is also providing financial support for projects, exchanges of experts or technical assistance which can support policies and investments for wildfire prevention and preparedness.

⁽¹⁾ <https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/disaster-prevention-and-risk-management/ucpm-peer-review-programme>.