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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.11.2025)

Under the Common Agricultural Policy, (CAP), Cohesion Policy and the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), Member States have the flexibility to design forestry interventions based on their national and regional needs. Cohesion Policy can finance forest fire risk prevention and preparedness measures, for which EUR 2.2 billion¹ are allocated in the 2021-2027 period. The CAP also gives support for prevention and restoration of forest damages, including fires, with allocation of EUR 2.9 billion² for the period 2014-2022 and minimum planned allocation of EUR 925 million³ for 2023-2027. Under these instruments, and in line with the programmes agreed with the Commission, managing authorities oversee selecting the specific projects addressing, in this case, fire prevention. In the RRF, Member States have allocated an estimated amount of around EUR 14.5 billion to investments in climate change adaptation and risk preparedness, including for wildfire prevention.

The Commission is following up to the European Court of Auditors report on EU funding to tackle forest fires⁴. On recommendation 1 of the report, the Commission will promote good practices to target projects with the greatest potential impact. In line with recommendation 2, it will identify sources of information if available to support the assessment of effectiveness of projects.

Moreover, the European Forest Fire Information System provides wildfire risk information with an approach contributing to a structural wildfire risk assessment for Europe, which can serve as the basis for the allocation of funds. Lastly, research at EU and national level strengthens the evidence base for risk assessment, prevention and restoration, informing the design and updating of these measures.⁵

¹ EU funds.

² Total public expenditure.

³ Total public expenditure.

⁴ European Court of Auditors Special report 16/2025: EU funding to tackle forest fires – More preventive measures, but insufficient evidence of results and their long-term sustainability
<https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications/SR-2025-16>.

⁵ See EU-funded projects such as, but not exclusively SILVANUS <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101037247>, FirEUrisk <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101003890>, TREEADS <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101036926> or ForestFireAI <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101206950>.