

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003858/25
to the Commission**

Grégory Allione (Renew), Joachim Streit (Renew), Thomas Pellerin-Carlin (S&D), Valérie Devaux (Renew), Matej Tonin (PPE), Olivier Chastel (Renew), Benoit Cassart (Renew), Željana Zovko (PPE), Christophe Grudler (Renew), Pascal Arimont (PPE)
(2 October 2025)

Subject: New European firefighting hub in Cyprus

The summer of 2025 was marked by fires of exceptional magnitude across the EU, with more than one million hectares of forest being destroyed, equivalent to one third of the surface area of Belgium.

In response to this critical situation, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced in her State of the Union address the creation of a new European firefighting hub based in Cyprus. This hub is intended to strengthen response capabilities and provide assistance to neighbouring countries in the region.

In the light of the above:

1. What budget will be allocated for the creation and operation of this hub, and how will it be financed?
2. What operational resources will the hub have — will it include a permanent fleet of firefighting aircraft and a permanent EU reserve of firefighters prepositioned in Cyprus?
3. Will the hub serve as an EU training centre specialising in forest fire management, with a focus on a shared approach to aerial forest firefighting in the Mediterranean region?

Submitted: 2.10.2025

Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(5 January 2026)

Regarding the Cyprus firefighting hub, which aims to ensure effective wildfire response and to strengthen support and capacity for the wider region in the Mediterranean, the Commission is currently exploring various options, tools, and funding. The Commission is also discussing the hub's structure and operations with the authorities in Cyprus.

The Commission is committed to a constructive dialogue with all relevant parties and will continue to update the European Parliament on developments on this important preparedness initiative.
