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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.11.2025)

During the last wildfire season (June-October 2025), Greece activated the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS)¹ – rapid mapping component 16 times to support response operations. To date, the CEMS – risk and recovery component has not been used to assess the impact of drought on forest ecosystems. However, the drought component of CEMS provides, without the need of any activation, near real-time data on drought impacts on vegetation. Moreover, Greece is also part of the EU Working Group on water scarcity and drought together with the responsible of CEMS Drought.

Under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2022, a total of EUR 81 million is available for forestry-related measures, of which EUR 69 million has already been disbursed. Similar interventions are also planned under the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan 2023-2027². Under Horizon Europe, a European co-funded partnership on Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future has been proposed, but Greece has not yet expressed interest in joining.

Cohesion policy allocates EUR 1.4 billion in 2021-2027³ (including national co-financing) through national and regional programmes to support prevention, risk and disaster management measures across Greece including forest related actions. To date, projects totalling EUR 1.3 billion have been selected for co-financing. Through its Joint Research Centre, the Commission also provides software to facilitate forest die-off monitoring with Copernicus satellite data in near-real-time⁴.

¹ <https://emergency.copernicus.eu/>.

² <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/>.

³ <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/>.

⁴ <https://forest.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/forest-disturbances/#div2>.