

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004339/25
to the Commission
Elena Kountoura (The Left)
(4 November 2025)

Subject: Need to update forest fire hazard maps in Greece and other EU Member States for enhanced prevention

Southern and Mediterranean countries, such as Greece, are experiencing the consequences of the climate crisis with increasing frequency and intensity of forest fires every year.

Prevention is crucial for more effective fire management, and investing in preventive measures, such as clearing, firebreaks and fuel management, drastically reduces the risk of disasters, protects the natural environment and local communities and limits future financial and operational needs for emergency response.

However, investments in prevention must be based on sound data and reliable planning. According to the European Court of Auditors' Special Report, ⁽¹⁾ the Greek authorities continue to rely on forest fire risk maps from 1980 ⁽²⁾ and the failure to review the data for 45 years creates significant problems in the rational selection of effective prevention projects, leading to an untargeted use of Community funds.

In view of this:

1. What measures does the Commission intend to put in place to ensure that Member States, including Greece, immediately draw up updated and scientifically substantiated forest fire risk maps, using data such as that of EFFIS and the most modern methodologies?
2. Does the Commission intend to make the drawing up of updated forest fire risk maps mandatory for all Member States on a regular basis, as part of a harmonised response to the impacts of the climate crisis and strengthening prevention at EU level?

Submitted: 4.11.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(28 January 2026)

The Commission accepted the Court of Auditors' recommendation ⁽¹⁾ to promote good practices for project selection, namely the use of clear and up-to-date risk maps.

Regarding the common agricultural policy (CAP) and cohesion policy funds, the Commission has already started to implement this recommendation and is promoting the exchange of good practices among Member States in relevant fora and platforms, including on the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS).

Civil protection is a national competence, and the EU cannot impose any mandatory requirements. Building resilience to climate related impacts, however, is mandated by the Climate Law ⁽²⁾. The Commission is also developing an Integrated European Framework for Climate Resilience ⁽³⁾, planned for the end of 2026.

It is the Member State's responsibility to draw up updated forest fire risk maps. The Commission has put in place different initiatives that support Member States in preventing or reducing forest fire risk.

For example, the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change ⁽⁴⁾ helps European regions to better manage climate change-driven impacts, like wildfire risks.

Moreover, EFFIS provides wildfire risk information contributing to a structural wildfire risk assessment for Europe, which can serve as the basis for the allocation of funds.

¹ The report notes that in December 2024 the Greek authorities were working on updating the relevant Presidential Decree (<https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications/SR-2025-16>). However, almost a year later, and despite the current Government's six years in power, no revision of the maps has yet been published.

² In Greece, forests and forest areas that are particularly sensitive to forest fires are defined in Presidential Decree 575/1980.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECARepplies/COM-Replies-SR-2025-16/COM-Replies-SR-2025-16_EN.pdf.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1119>.

⁽³⁾ https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/adaptation-and-resilience-climate-change/european-climate-resilience-and-risk-management-integrated-framework_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/adaptation-climate-change_en.

Finally, the Commission is allocating funding to support wildfire prevention, including the improvement of risk maps. In Greece, cohesion policy contributes with EUR 12.3 million (EU contribution) to forest fire prevention and management measures, such as the mapping of areas vulnerable to forest fires.

Moreover, Greece's recovery and resilience plan ⁽⁵⁾ supports natural restoration by investing in reforestation and fire-prevention actions.

⁽⁵⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en.