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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.2.2026)

The Commission acknowledges the growing challenges faced by coastal areas due to climate change, including rising sea levels, intensified coastal erosion, and more frequent flooding¹². The Commission therefore emphasises the critical need for climate adaptation action, for instance through effective implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

As announced in the Ocean Pact adopted on 5 June 2025³, the Commission will propose in 2026 both a new EU Coastal Communities Development and Resilience Strategy, and the European Integrated Framework for Climate Resilience. These deliverables will promote early warning capacities and action to enhance climate resilience, supported by advanced observation and forecasting services.

Member States can use current Cohesion Policy funds to support disaster risk management, notably prevention, response and resilience measures in islands and coastal areas, including measures to address coastal erosion. In the case of French Guiana, the 2021-2027 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – European Social Fund+ (ESF+) programme includes the priority ‘Fostering climate change adaptation, disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches’, with an ERDF support of EUR 8 million.

Finally, the Commission Work Programme 2026⁴ announced a new strategy for the outermost regions in 2026. This strategy aims to support these territories, including French Guiana, by addressing their specific needs and challenges, including when it comes to strengthening their resilience and preparedness.

¹ European Environment Agency, European Climate Risk Assessment, 2024.

² European Commission, Communication on Managing Climate Risks, COM(2024) 91 final.

³ COM(2025) 281 final.

⁴ COM(2025) 870 final.