

EN

E-000351/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.4.2026)

The EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF)¹ can only be activated at the request of Italy which has a deadline of 12 weeks as from the first damage occurred, demonstrating that the total direct damage exceeds the thresholds specified in Article 2 of the Regulation (EC) 2012/2002². The EUSF may cover a part of the costs for emergency and recovery operations incurred by public authorities³. The Commission stands ready to guide the authorities should they wish to apply for EUSF support.

The European Regional Development Fund programmes for Calabria, Sardinia and Sicily now include around EUR 352 million to prevent and manage the risks caused by natural disasters. Out of this amount, EUR 196 million have been allocated to selected operations as of 31 December 2025, while EUR 156 million are still available to support new interventions. These funds could finance infrastructure enhancements for disaster resilience. The Commission is available to discuss with regional authorities how this financial envelope could be used to address the consequences of the recent events.

Pursuant to Article 21(1) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/241⁴, Italy can also submit a proposal to amend its recovery and resilience plan. Such a proposal can include new measures if existing ones are no longer achievable. New measures shall comply with the requirements outlined in the Regulation, including an indicative timeline for the completion by 31 August 2026.

Pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2025/2649⁵, Member States can also amend their Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan to offer crisis payments to active farmers impacted by natural disasters and use interventions to restore agricultural and forestry potential.

The Commission recalls that the Regional Emergency Support to Reconstruction Regulation⁶ applies to natural disasters occurring between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2025. This

¹ Council Regulation (EC) 2012/2002 of 11 November 2002 establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund (OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3) as amended by Regulation (EU) No 661/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council of 15 May 2014 (OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 143) and by Regulation (EU) 2020/461 of the European Parliament and the Council of 30 March 2020 (OJ L 99, 31.3.2020, p. 9: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32002R2012>).

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2002/2012/oj/eng#:~:text=of%20this%20Regulation,-Article%202,-1.%20At%20the>.

³ This means, for example, the recovery of essential infrastructure, provision of temporary accommodation to the population, cleaning-up operations, and protection of the cultural heritage.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ L57, 18.2.2021, p.17, Art. 21 (1): <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/241/oj>).

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32025R2649>.

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2024/3236 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2024 amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1057 and (EU) 2021/1058 as regards Regional Emergency Support to Reconstruction (RESTORE): <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/3236/oj>.

temporal scope reflects a sunset clause introduced by the co-legislators as part of a broader compromise reached during the legislative negotiations.