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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.5.2026)

The Commission, through the Emergency Response Coordination Centre, remained in contact with the Portuguese authorities, which proactively activated the Copernicus Emergency Management Service Rapid Mapping to provide satellite mapping, and used the European Flood Awareness System and scientific multi-hazard early warning and monitoring services to anticipate support.

Any country may request assistance via the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) when a disaster exceeds national capacities. As Portugal did not request such assistance, no additional support could be provided through the UCPM, since civil protection is a national competence.

The Commission co-finances projects supporting Member States in disaster prevention and preparedness, which Portugal may consider. Following a request from Portugal to mobilise the agricultural reserve, the Commission will examine the possibility to adopt exceptional measures under Regulation (EU) 1308/2013¹.

Under the 2023-2027 Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan (CSP), Portugal has programmed up to EUR 23.6 million from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development for restoring agricultural and forestry potential after disasters, and EUR 41 million for insurance. Member States may also mobilise CSP funding for crisis payments.

The EU Solidarity Fund may be activated at Portugal's request within 12 weeks, provided the thresholds in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) 2012/2002² are met. It covers certain public emergency and recovery costs; private damage is excluded. The Commission remains ready to assist.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1308/oj/eng>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2002/2002/oj/eng>.