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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.6.2026)

The Commission provides guidance and support to Member States regarding the damage assessment following a climate-related disaster. However, under the remits of cohesion policy and the Common Agricultural Policy, assessment of damage falls under the Member State's responsibility as part of the shared management principle governing these funds.

In case where initial assessments are found to be incomplete, Portugal may reopen or extend deadlines for damage and adjust the selection criteria to ensure that those affected are not unduly excluded.

When it comes to EU instruments which can offer support, on 26 January 2026, Portugal activated the Copernicus Emergency Management Service - on demand mapping - to assess the situation during and after the event. Some maps were requested to detect the flooded area, and other products to provide damage assessment. The activation is still ongoing.

Moreover, on 13 April 2026, Portugal submitted an EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF)¹ application regarding several consecutive storms in January and February 2026. In its application for EUSF funding, Portugal reported direct damages caused by the disaster that were collected during the 12-week application period². Due to the nature of the disaster, the EUSF Regulation³ permits national authorities to update or supplement their EUSF application even after the 12-week application deadline, in justified cases, to take account of possible additional damages identified after the initial submission of the application.

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 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).

² The 12-week application period begins on the date the disaster first caused damage.

³ Article 4(1)(a) of Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2002/2012/oj/eng>.