

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003141/26
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(27 July 2026)**

Subject: Compensation for agricultural damage caused during aerial firefighting operations

Producers in the regional unit of Kavala report that aerial firefighting operations caused significant damage to vineyards, as Erickson helicopters scooped water in areas where there were established crops. Those affected are calling for compensation for the damage incurred, pointing out that it was caused in the context of natural disaster response operations.

Given that the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, established by Decision 1313/2013/EU, strengthens Member State cooperation in responding to natural disasters, will the Commission say:

1. Are there European guidelines or best practices on compensation for damage caused unintentionally during civil protection operations?
2. Does it collect data on collateral damage that may be caused to farms during aerial firefighting operations?
3. Does it consider that further European coordination or an exchange of best practices is needed in order to ensure swift compensation for such damage in the Member States?

Submitted: 27.7.2026

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(26 October 2026)**

The role of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) is to support coordination of assistance when a disaster exceeds national capacities. Operational decisions on where and how the assistance is used fall under the responsibility of the Member State receiving the assistance.

As per Article 46 of the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/704 of 10 April 2025 laying down rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism, Member States receiving assistance and Member States providing it are to cooperate, in accordance with applicable law and relevant frameworks, to facilitate compensation for damage suffered by third parties during assistance interventions ⁽¹⁾.

Liability and compensation arrangements for damage caused by assistance sent by a Member State to a requesting Member State through the UCPM are governed by national legal frameworks.

The assistance provided through the UCPM helps to prevent further damage to humans, animals and property at large. The Commission does not systematically collect data on unintended damages nor on the value of saved property by operations supported by it. Relevant data may be borne by Member States, if available.

The Commission supports exchanges of operational experience and lessons learnt among participating countries, also in the context of the UCPM activities ⁽²⁾, to improve preparedness and response.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/704 of 10 April 2025 laying down rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2025/704/oj.

⁽²⁾ Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2013/1313/oj>.