

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.10.2026)

The Commission recognises the decline in pastoral activities as one of the factors leading to increased wildfire risk in the Mediterranean region. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)¹ is the EU key funding instrument to provide support for agricultural activities that reduce wildfire risk in rural landscapes, such as pastoralism and extensive grazing.

The implementation of the permanent grubbing-up of vineyards² implies the complete elimination of vine stocks on the grubbed-up area, avoiding the accumulation of combustible biomass. To remain eligible for CAP support, farmers must pursue an agricultural activity on this area, implying either production (e.g. diversification) or maintenance of the area in a state which makes it suitable for grazing or cultivation.

The Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR)³ contributes to building fire-resilient landscapes: restored forests are less vulnerable to fires thanks to a more diverse species composition, and restored wetlands and rewetted soils retain water in the landscape, which can slow down the spread of fire.

The objectives of the NRR are therefore fully compatible with wildfire prevention goals. Member States must ensure that restoration measures in forest ecosystems duly consider forest fire risk⁴, and that their national restoration plans consider climate change impacts and natural disaster prevention goals⁵.

The implementation of CAP and NRR relies on objectives and priorities defined in national plans based on the local context and needs, including wildfire risk.

¹ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/cap-overview/cap-glance_en.

² Article 58(1)(o) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013, OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, pp. 1–186.

³ Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869, OJ L, 2024/1991, 29.7.2024.

⁴ as per Article 12.

⁵ as per Article 15(3)(t).