

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003261/26
to the Commission
Fredis Beleris (PPE)
(11 August 2026)**

Subject: The need for a modern European Natural Disaster Response Fund

The devastating forest fires experienced by Greece, Cyprus, France and Spain, directly affect citizens' quality of life and confirm the need for a fully-fledged European response and reconstruction fund.

Europe seeks, through the rescEU mechanism, to support Member States that need help with fighting fires but the frequency of the disasters is such that the budget of the EU Solidarity Fund, which provides financial support for infrastructure reconstruction, is unable to provide sufficient funding.

Restoring property, infrastructure and forest ecosystems is a necessary condition for protecting the quality of life of European citizens. The European Solidarity Fund needs to evolve into a new European Natural Disaster Response Fund with a guaranteed, independent and sufficient budget in the new MFF 2028-2034, to protect forests and water resources, prevent soil erosion, make infrastructure more resilient and support citizens in the areas affected.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it intend to set up a new European Natural Disaster Response Fund with guaranteed funding and common standards and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms?
2. Does it intend to create a new framework of European assistance to compensate citizens affected by natural disasters?
3. Does it intend to take steps to introduce a special point-awarding system for local and regional authorities affected by natural disasters when direct funding is given by the European Commission?

Submitted: 11.8.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(20 October 2026)**

The Commission's proposal for a regulation on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) ⁽¹⁾ reinforces the EU's commitment to preventing, preparing to, and responding to disasters including natural ones.

Supported by a proposed financial envelope of EUR 10.7 billion under the next Multiannual Financial Framework for 2028-2034 ⁽²⁾, the regulation aims to strengthen the UCPM and EU reserve of capacities for civil protection capabilities, accelerate operational assistance, and enhance cross-sectoral preparedness to deliver faster, more effective crisis response to affected regional authorities.

In addition, under the Commission's proposal for the National and Regional Partnership Plans ⁽³⁾ (NRP Plans), Member States would be able to support investments that strengthen the EU's preparedness for crises and disasters, help adaptation to climate change, increase climate resilience, and improve water management and water resilience.

In the event of a crisis, Member States could amend their NRP Plans through a simplified procedure, either to reprogramme existing measures or to mobilise their flexibility amount (which is unprogrammed upon the first adoption of the NRP Plans). Support to citizens and affected territories can thus be provided through measures designed by Member States and regions.

Furthermore, if NRP Plan resources prove insufficient, Member States could also request additional support from Union Actions financed under the EU Facility ⁽⁴⁾, with a budget of EUR 20 billion, to respond swiftly to urgent and specific needs arising from a crisis situation, such as a major national or regional natural disaster.

⁽¹⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and Union support for health emergency preparedness and response, and repealing Decision No 1313/2013/EU (Union Civil Protection Mechanism), COM/2025/548 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025PC0548&qid=1753799672664>.

⁽²⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A dynamic EU Budget for the priorities of the future — The Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034, COM/2025/570 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0570&qid=1753978048542>.

⁽³⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034 and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 and Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, COM(2025)565 final/2: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0565R%2801%29>.

⁽⁴⁾ Article 34(3), in conjunction with Article 26(4)(a) and Annex XV, point 1(i), of the Commission proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034 and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 and Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, COM(2025)565 final/2.