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Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski
on behalf of the European Commission
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Through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), Member States may programme, besides risk management tools, support for farm investments restoring the production potential. These come on top of a robust system of income support. To make farms more resilient towards disasters and to reduce impacts of events, support to invest in appropriate preventive actions and infrastructure is encouraged. Farmers may also invoke force majeure when complying with legal obligations is impossible.

Based on the legislative proposal¹ put forward by the Commission on 21 October 2024 Member States, besides reinforcing their restoration measures may amend their Rural Development Programmes for 2014-2022 to introduce support of up to EUR 42 000, under certain circumstances, to those affected by natural disasters such as a hurricane occurred after 1 January 2024.

On 21 October 2024 the Commission adopted RESTORE (Regional Emergency Support to Reconstruction)² a legislative proposal to mobilise additional resources from cohesion policy, complementing those already available under the EU Solidarity Fund, to help Member States recently affected by natural disasters. The proposed targeted amendments will provide immediate liquidity to affected Member States and ease budgetary pressure through flexibilities in providing EU support to reconstruct and repair infrastructure and immediate help to the population affected by the disaster.

Spain as a Member State recently affected by a natural disaster may make use of RESTORE flexibilities depending on the nature of the damages involved - once co-legislators agree the proposed changes and the amendments enter into force.

¹ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2020/2220 as regards specific measures under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) to provide additional assistance to Member States affected by natural disasters, COM(2024) 495 final.

² Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council: RESTORE – Regional Emergency Support to Reconstruction amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 and Regulation (EU) 2021/1057, COM (2024) 496 final.