

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.1.2025)

1. The EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF)¹ can only be activated at the request of Cyprus which has a deadline of 12 weeks as from when the first damage occurred, demonstrating that the total direct damage exceeds the thresholds specified in Article 2 Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002. The EUSF may cover a part of the costs for emergency and recovery operations incurred by public authorities. This means, for example, the recovery of essential infrastructure, provision of temporary accommodation to the population, cleaning-up operations and protection of the cultural heritage. Private damage is not eligible.

2. Under the Programme ‘Thalia 2021-2027’, Cohesion Policy supports Cyprus with some EUR 79 million (EU contribution), for long-term investments aimed at risk prevention and resilience-building, particularly in the coastal areas of the country, through targeted anti-flood measures. Under the Cypriot Rural Development Programme 2014-2022 and the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan 2023-2027, support is foreseen for the restoration of agricultural potential.

Additionally, on 21 October 2024, the Commission put forward a legislative proposal² called RESTORE - Regional Emergency Support to Reconstruction³, which, if adopted, will allow for some targeted flexibilities under the 2021-2027 cohesion policy framework. This would ease the budgetary pressure on Member States and regions affected by natural disasters. New specific measures were also put forward under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development⁴ to provide additional assistance to farmers, forest holders and small and medium-sized enterprises affected by natural disasters. The proposals are subject to co-legislative negotiations.

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). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32002R2012>

² COM(2024) 496.

³ It would allow Member States to reprogramme part of their European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund Plus allocations in response to natural disasters occurred as from 1 January 2024 until the end of the 2021-2027 programming period with a possibility of EU financing up to 100 % and an additional pre-financing of 30%.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2024%3A495%3AFIN>