

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003255/25
to the Commission
Kostas Papadakis (NI)
(19 August 2025)**

Subject: The catastrophic fires in Achaia, Keratea, Chios and other parts of the country

We have already seen one death and 1 600 hectares burnt by the fire in Keratea, Attica, and more than 800 hectares burnt in Ilia. Likewise in Achaia, there has been serious damage to the urban fabric, and the government is hugely responsible for this, failing to provide adequate aerial and land resources and leaving residents without assistance for hours. At the same time, it is attempting, outrageously, to throw the blame on the public and on the municipal authority which — in the wake of the policy of cuts to public funding from the government — mustered all the meagre resources it had.

Similar disasters have occurred in recent days in Preveza, Zakynthos, Chios, Aitolokarnania, Kefallonia, Arta, Chania etc., with more than 12 000 hectares of land burnt, along with houses, stock-rearing units, and wildlife too.

What is the European Commission's view on:

1. The urgent demand for 100% compensation for those affected by the fires, to be released from the so-called EU Solidarity Fund by derogation from the restrictive terms and conditions which exclude the worst-hit and award subsidies only to construction groups?
2. The fact that the shift towards a 'war economy' promoted by the EU and the government entails the integration of civil protection into European and NATO wartime needs, and reallocation of even the minimal funds that were intended for basic infrastructure measures and projects?

Submitted: 19.8.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(21 October 2025)**

1. The EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF) ⁽¹⁾ can only be activated by Greece which has 12 weeks as from when the first damage occurred, to demonstrate 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 ⁽²⁾. Case-by-case derogation is not possible.
2. The Commission's proposal for the 2028 — 2034 Multiannual Financial Framework on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and Union support for health emergency and preparedness and response ⁽³⁾ has significantly increased the indicative financial envelope compared to the proposal for the 2021 — 2027 period.

The Preparedness Union Strategy highlights the need to prepare for large-scale, cross-sectoral incidents and crises, and improve the interaction between civilian and military actors, in full cooperation with Member States. This enhanced cooperation does not change the rules of the respective funding instruments governing each sector. Already now, civilian authorities need military support ⁽⁴⁾ and both benefit from the improved interaction.

The mid-term review package ⁽⁵⁾ also seeks to allow Member States to optimize the use of the funds allocated to each of them under the cohesion policy programmes to enhance industrial capacities to foster defence capabilities, and resilient infrastructure, prioritising those of a dual-use nature and civil preparedness depending on their specific needs. Meanwhile, financing for other basic infrastructure and civil preparedness unrelated to defence continues ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽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⁾ 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.

⁽³⁾ Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2028 to 2034. COM/2025/548 final.

⁽⁴⁾ For example, in case of health emergencies, extreme weather events, hybrid and cyberattacks.

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) 2025/1914 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2025 amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1058 and (EU) 2021/1056 as regards specific measures to address strategic challenges in the context of the mid-term review.

⁽⁶⁾ If eligible under relevant programmes and according to identified national/regional needs.