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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
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While the EU has a supporting competence in civil protection, the main responsibility for prevention, preparedness and response lies with the Member States.

The Recovery and Resilience Plan for Cyprus¹ includes a specific investment (C2.1I9) in forests fire protection, to support the capabilities of Cyprus' authorities to cope with fire hazards and invest in protection against risks faced by citizens, infrastructure and forests. More than EUR 25 million will be dedicated to this measure. Cyprus' authorities also benefit from a Technical Support Instrument project to enhance the overall national capacity to deal with disasters, including wildfires².

Under the Cohesion Policy programme Thalia³, the EU allocated nearly EUR 5 million to the Cyprus Fire Service Command and Control Centre, directly contributing to fire preparedness.

Funds under measure 8, (sub-measures 8.3 and 8.4) of the Cypriot Rural Development Programme 2014-2022⁴ have been used for prevention and restoration of damage to forests from forest fires, natural disasters and catastrophic events (execution rate 92%). Corresponding interventions are also included in the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan 2023-2027⁵.

On 23 July 2025, Cyprus requested firefighting assistance through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism. The Emergency Response Coordination Centre responded by sending two medium amphibious firefighting planes from Spain and offering two light planes from Sweden. Cyprus declined the offers as the situation improved. A Greek firefighting team was deployed from 25 to 27 July 2025. Two light firefighting planes from the rescEU fleet were based in Cyprus from 15 June to 31 October 2025 for EU-coordinated firefighting response operations.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/cyprus-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en.

² https://reform-support.ec.europa.eu/our-projects/country-factsheets/cyprus_en#:~:text=The%20Technical%20Support%20Instrument%20%28TSI%29%20provides%20tailor-made%20technical,migration%2C%20and%20financial%20market%20and%20access%20to%20finance.

³ <https://thalia.com.cy/en/home-en/?page=1>.

⁴ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/document/download/fb60ea19-a336-4875-a1ea-c0f86fb12731_en?filename=rdp-factsheet-cyprus_en.pdf&prefLang=sk.

⁵ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/cap-my-country/cap-strategic-plans_en.