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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.10.2025)

Extreme adverse weather conditions including wildfires and climate change are affecting and will continue to increasingly affect the EU agriculture sector. To help alleviate the vulnerability of farmers and forester producers, it is necessary to build a resilient, competitive, and sustainable farming system that can absorb these shocks. Under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan and the Rural Development Programmes, Portugal has programmed risk management tools (insurances) and interventions to support farmers and forest holders severely impacted by wildfires (or other catastrophic events), to restore agricultural and forestry potential.

The EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF)¹ can be activated at the request of Portugal which has a total of 12 weeks to submit it, as from when the first damage occurred. So far, Portugal has not requested EUSF assistance.

Under the Mid-Term Review of Cohesion Policy, Portugal's programmes Centro and Norte 2021-2027 are activating the new specific objective for regional emergency support for reconstruction (RESTORE), with an EU allocation of EUR 40 million and EUR 52 million respectively, to support investments for the reconstruction of the areas affected by the forest fires in 2024 and 2025.

Likewise, EU State aid rules already provide several possibilities to enable Member States to compensate farmers, such as the Agricultural de minimis aid Regulation.

Finally, as part of the CAP Omnibus simplification proposal, (in co-decision) new crisis payments have been proposed by the Commission, to help the Member States better address the increasing number of natural disasters and other catastrophic events. Portugal has expressed interest activating it once the co-legislators adopt the proposal.

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1217/2002 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>.