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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.11.2025)

The Commission acknowledges the importance of improving the EU's ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to forest fires. At this initial stage, the Commission is exploring various options on the hub's structure and operation in liaison with Cyprus and other stakeholders.

Regarding staffing and equipment, the specific details are still under consideration. The Commission is considering potential contributions of aerial resources and firefighters and aims to coordinate effectively with Cypriot authorities to ensure the hub can operate optimally.

Regarding the preliminary timeline for establishing the firefighting hub is still being discussed. This project requires a phased and scalable approach, with progress contingent on defining specific details and reaching agreements with stakeholders.

Regarding project costs and funding, the Commission is currently evaluating costs and potential funding sources. Discussions are underway to explore funding avenues, including resources from Cypriot national funds, EU funding and possibly other financial sources.

The Commission is committed to maintaining constructive dialogue with all relevant parties and will continue to update the European Parliament as more information becomes available.