

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(4.11.2025)

The EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF)<sup>1</sup> can only be activated at the request of Portugal 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 is not a rapid response instrument. Aid can only be granted following an application, assessment and budgetary process, which includes the approval of the European Parliament and the Council. This process takes several months to complete.

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.

To support farmers and livestock producers affected by the fires, the Commission highlights the availability of measures under the Common Agricultural Policy. These measures include risk management tools and interventions to restore agricultural and forestry potential. The Commission works with the Portuguese authorities to ensure that these measures are effectively implemented to address the needs of the affected farming communities. In addition, EU State aid rules offer several possibilities for Member States to compensate farmers for losses caused by natural disasters, for instance under the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation<sup>2</sup> or the Agricultural State aid Guidelines<sup>3</sup>. Aid to farmers may also be granted under the Agricultural *de minimis* Regulation<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.

<sup>2</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/2472 of 14 December 2022 declaring certain categories of aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (OJ L 327, 21.12.2022, p. 1).

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 485 of 21.12.2022, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No 1408/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid in the agriculture sector (OJ L 352, 24.12.2013 p. 9).