

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(12.3.2026)

1. The EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF)<sup>1</sup> can only be activated at the request of Italy which has a deadline of 12 weeks as from the first damage occurred, demonstrating 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<sup>2</sup>. The Commission stands ready to support and guide the authorities should they wish to apply for EUSF support.

Italy can request assistance via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)<sup>3</sup>. This enables the Emergency Response Cooperation Centre to coordinate and mobilise support from other Member States and UCPM participating states, such as specialised equipment or response teams for emergency operations.

2. The Commission recalls that the Regional Emergency Support to Reconstruction Regulation<sup>4</sup> applies to natural disasters occurring between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2025. This temporal scope reflects a sunset clause introduced by the co-legislators as part of a broader compromise reached during the legislative negotiations.

3. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programmes for Calabria, Sardinia and Sicily currently include around EUR 352 million to prevent and manage the risks caused by natural disasters. Out of this amount, EUR 196 million have been allocated to selected operations as of 31 December 2025, while EUR 156 million are still available to support new interventions under the abovementioned programmes. While the ERDF cannot be used to cover emergency interventions and general reconstruction needs, it could be used for the creation and the upgrade of infrastructure to improve resilience.

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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> 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.

<sup>3</sup> [https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism\\_en](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en).

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2024/3236 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2024 amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1057 and (EU) 2021/1058 as regards Regional Emergency Support to Reconstruction (RESTORE). <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/3236/oj>.