

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000443/26
to the Commission
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(4 February 2026)**

Subject: European Commission's readiness to mobilise instruments to support farmers affected by storm Kristin

Storm Kristin caused significant damage to farms and forest land across a number of regions in Portugal. In many cases, damage is not covered by agricultural insurance, a fact which exacerbates the vulnerability of affected farmers and reinforces the need for a swift response.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission prepared to mobilise, without delay, the instruments available to restore the agricultural production potential affected, including exceptional measures and crisis payments provided for in the current legislative framework, and what budgetary allocation does it think could be mobilised immediately to support farmers affected by this extreme climate phenomenon?
2. Does it envisage the application of simplified procedures or the issuing of specific guidelines for Portugal with a view to speeding up the granting of such support, and is it prepared to authorise amendments to the CAP Strategic Plan to allow for the rapid mobilisation of financial resources to support affected farmers?
3. Given the limited agricultural insurance coverage, is the Commission willing to support, in the short term, measures that enhance the complementarity of public crisis management instruments and risk management mechanisms, so as to ensure that the lack of insurance does not prevent access to essential support following extreme weather events?

Submitted: 4.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(24 March 2026)**

1. Under the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), through the 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan (CSP), Portugal has programmed support for the restoration of agricultural and forestry potential following natural disasters, adverse climatic events or catastrophic events amounting to EUR 23.6 million of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) available for farmers and forest owners. In addition, following the recent Omnibus simplification, Member States can mobilise CSP funding for crisis payments that compensate for production losses due to such events. Furthermore, following a request from the Portuguese authorities to mobilise the agricultural reserve to support the agricultural sector affected by the storm, the Commission will examine the possibility to adopt exceptional measures under Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 ⁽¹⁾.
2. Restoration support provided for in the Portuguese CSP can already be implemented by national authorities. In order to make use of the possibility to provide crisis payments to farmers, Portugal would need to submit a CSP amendment request to the Commission. However, expenditure would be eligible as from the occurrence of the catastrophic event. National authorities may also grant, under certain conditions, support to farmers in line with EU State aid rules ⁽²⁾.
3. Under the CSP, Member States already may combine support for risk management tools with crisis and restoration measures, ensuring complementarity between *ex ante* and *ex post* support. Increasing the uptake of risk management tools is essential to strengthen resilience at the farm level, and *ex post* support should be limited to crisis situations. The Commission remains ready to work closely with Portugal to make full use of the existing framework.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1308/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ Without prior notification to the Commission under the 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), or following a notification to the Commission under the Guidelines for state aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas (OJ C 485, 21.12.2022, p. 1).