

EN

P-002863/2026

Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.8.2026)

The EU has a supporting competence in the field of civil protection. The primary responsibility for civil protection lies with the Member States. It is therefore for each Member State to assess and decide whether and when assistance is needed through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM).

Ahead of the wildfire season, Spain proactively requested the support of the UCPM to preposition groundfire teams¹. It also activated the Copernicus system several times this summer, including for the wildfires concerned. On 24 July 2026, Spain activated the UCPM for wildfires in Ávila and Madrid, requesting four aerial firefighting planes. The response operation is still ongoing and the Emergency Response Coordination Centre, including its wildfires support team, remains in close contact with Spain.

Andalucía's 2021–2027 ERDF² programme already allocates EUR 145 million for climate risk prevention, including forest fires, alongside broader EU support³. The EU Solidarity Fund can also be requested by Member States to offer financial support after severe natural disasters.

The EU continues to invest in prevention and preparedness, while strengthening its collective wildfire response capacity through the rescEU aerial firefighting fleet and the strategic pre-positioning of firefighters during summer. Last March, the Commission adopted a Communication on integrated wildfire risk management, which reviews the tools and instruments available to the EU and its Member States, assesses their effectivity and identifies potential new actions for an integrated approach to wildfires⁴. These measures are built on the Preparedness Union Strategy⁵, which aims to make the EU better prepared and more ready to anticipate, prevent and face current challenges.

¹ Firefighter teams from Bulgaria, the Netherlands and Poland have joined regional responders (from 1 July to 31 August 2026) to support response to wildfires emergencies.

² European Regional Development Fund.

³ In addition, the 2021-2027 pluri-regional programme for Spain, also supported by the ERDF, includes an amount of EUR 383 million to finance the same type of investments in less developed regions, that could also be mobilised for Andalucía. The implementation of these investments is ongoing and it is being followed closely by the Commission.

⁴ COM(2026) 330 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52026DC0330>.

⁵ JOIN(2025) 130 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025JC0130>.