Basic information

2024/0274(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
Specific measures under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) to provide additional assistance to Member States affected by natural disasters Amending Regulation 2020/2220 2019/0254(COD) **Subject** 3.10.01.02 Rural development, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) 3.70.11 Natural disasters, Solidarity Fund	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	Chair on behalf of committee VRECIONOVÁ Veronika (ECR)	19/11/2024

Committee for budgetary assessment	Rapporteur for budgetary assessment	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	SOUSA SILVA Hélder (EPP)	13/11/2024

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Agriculture and Rural Development	HANSEN Christophe

European Economic and Social Committee

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
21/10/2024	Legislative proposal published	COM(2024)0495	Summary
13/11/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
13/11/2024	Urgent procedure requested by a committee		
03/12/2024	Vote in committee, 1st reading		

05/12/2024	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A10-0026/2024	
17/12/2024	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T10-0060/2024	Summary
17/12/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		
18/12/2024	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
19/12/2024	Final act signed		
23/12/2024	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2024/0274(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Amending Regulation 2020/2220 2019/0254(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 58 Rules of Procedure EP 170-p5 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 043-p2
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/10/01236

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE766.620	19/11/2024	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE765.331	02/12/2024	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A10-0026/2024	05/12/2024	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T10-0060/2024	17/12/2024	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Draft final act	00101/2024/LEX	19/12/2024	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
	COM(2024)0495		

Legislative proposal		21/10/2024	Summary

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	ES_PARLIAMENT	COM(2024)0495	13/12/2024	
Contribution	PT_PARLIAMENT	COM(2024)0495	07/01/2025	
Contribution	IT_SENATE	COM(2024)0495	15/01/2025	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES4085/2024	04/12/2024	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 2024/3242
OJ OJ L 23.12.2024 Summary

Specific measures under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) to provide additional assistance to Member States affected by natural disasters

2024/0274(COD) - 17/12/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 644 votes to 6, with 3 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2020/2220 as regards specific measures under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) to provide additional assistance to Member States affected by natural disasters.

The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure, taking over the Commission proposal.

The proposed regulation will help to **address and mitigate the impact of natural disasters** on the Union agri-food and forestry sectors by providing exceptional temporary support through the EAFRD.

The amending regulation introduces a new measure to allow Member States to provide **liquidity support to farmers, forest holders and SMEs** active in processing of agricultural and forestry products affected by natural disasters occurring as of 1 January 2024.

The support will take the form of a **lump sum** payment to be paid by 31 December 2025, based on applications for support approved by the competent authority by 30 June 2025. The new measure can be **co-financed up to 100%** with EAFRD and the maximum share of Union contribution is 10% of the total EAFRD contribution to the rural development programme for the years 2021-2022. The support should be provided only to those beneficiaries which were affected by a destruction of at least **30% of the relevant production potential** as a result of a formally recognised natural disaster.

Support will be granted to:

- farmers;

- private and public forest holders and other private law and public bodies and their associations, excluding State-owned forest managed by the State;

- SMEs active in the processing, marketing or development of agricultural products covered by Annex I to the TFEU or cotton, except fishery products; or

- SMEs active in the processing, mobilising and marketing of forest products.

The maximum amount of support will not exceed EUR 42 000 per beneficiary.

The regulation gives Member States the possibility to simplify procedures by considering the whole area to be gravely affected by a natural disaster when applying for "**force majeure**".

Specific measures under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) to provide additional assistance to Member States affected by natural disasters

2024/0274(COD) - 23/12/2024 - Final act

PURPOSE: to address and mitigate the impact of natural disasters on the Union agri-food and forestry sectors.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) 2024/3242 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2020/2220 as regards specific measures under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development to provide additional assistance to Member States affected by natural disasters.

CONTENT: the recent natural disasters in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as in Southern Europe, have had a devastating effect on the rural populations living and working in those regions. A considerable amount of agricultural and forestry production potential has been destroyed and, as a consequence, farmers, forest holders and rural businesses in the regions affected by natural disasters are faced with significant losses of income.

Alongside the Regulation on emergency regional support for reconstruction (RESTORE), this Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2020/2220 governing the **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development** (EAFRD) aims to give Member States more flexibility to provide **emergency support and targeted liquidity to farmers**, foresters and related businesses affected by natural disasters.

The regulation concerning the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development will enable Member States to reallocate unused 2014-2020 funds via a modification of their rural development programmes.

The support will consist of emergency assistance to farmers, foresters and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are particularly affected by natural disasters, in order to ensure the continuity of their business activities. The support will be conditional on formal recognition by the competent public authorities of the Member States that a natural disaster occurred **on or after 1 January 2024** and that the natural disaster or the measures adopted to eradicate or contain a plant disease or pest have caused **the destruction of at least 30% of the relevant production or potential**. Support for the restoration of agricultural and forestry production potential following natural disasters will prioritise operations based on the '**Build Back Better**' principle.

The support will take the form of a lump sum payment to be paid by 31 December 2025, based on applications for support approved by the competent authority by 30 June 2025. The maximum amount of support will not exceed **EUR 42 000** per beneficiary.

The resources for the new measure will be programmed with a co-financing rate of up to 100 %.

To reduce the administrative burden of beneficiaries affected by natural disasters and the Member States when recognising '**force majeure**', Member States should have the possibility to consider the whole area to be gravely affected by a natural disaster.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 23.12.2024.

Specific measures under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) to provide additional assistance to Member States affected by natural disasters

2024/0274(COD) - 21/10/2024 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to provide additional assistance and further flexibility to Member States affected by natural disasters to help them cope with the consequences of the devastating effects of the current natural disasters on the Union agri-food and forestry sector.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the recent natural disasters in Central and Eastern as well as in Southern Europe have had a devastating effect on the rural populations living and working in these regions. A considerable amount of agricultural and forestry production potential has been destroyed, with important losses of income.

In order to quickly address vulnerabilities of the European food system and rural communities resulting from these disasters, it is appropriate to rapidly provide **exceptional effective support through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development** (EAFRD) implemented under rural development programmes and provide for more flexibility for the existing measures.

In order to provide additional assistance and further flexibility to Member States affected by natural disasters, the Commission proposes a new measure and more flexibility in relation to the non-regression threshold provided for in Regulation (EU) 2020/2220 of the European Parliament and of the Council for a budgetary reinforcement of investments in restoration of agricultural potential as well as for funding the new measure.

CONTENT: the proposal is limited to a targeted amendment of Regulation (EU) 2020/2220. It complements all other measures aimed at addressing the current situation taken by the Union, in particular those measures aimed at providing liquidity.

In order to provide additional assistance and further flexibility as regards the non-regression threshold to Member States affected by natural disasters it is proposed to amend Regulation (EU) 2020/2220 to:

- introduce a new measure to allow Member States to **provide liquidity support to farmers, forest holders and SMEs active in processing of agricultural and forestry products** affected by natural disasters occurring as of 1 January 2024. The support is paid in form of a lump sum. The new measure can be co-financed up to 100% with EAFRD and the maximum share of Union contribution is 10% of the total EAFRD contribution to the rural development programme for the years 2021-2022. The support should be provided only to those beneficiaries which were affected by a destruction of at least 30% of the relevant production potential;

- provide **limited flexibility** regarding the non-regression clause when reallocating funds to the new measure or to measures for restoring production potential;

- give Member States the possibility to simplify procedures by considering the whole area to be gravely affected by a natural disaster when applying for “force majeure”;

- allow Member States to select for support operations that have been physically completed or fully implemented before the application for funding when linked to restoration or liquidity payments.

Budgetary implications

The proposal concerns the EAFRD rural development programmes for the 2014-2022 period and does not modify existing budgetary commitments. It remains within the limits of the overall allocation for the period 2014-2022 and is therefore budgetary neutral.

The total annual breakdown of commitment appropriations under EAFRD remains unchanged. Payments to beneficiaries will be made before 31 December 2025, and hence will be financed under the 2025, 2026 and 2027 budget.

The payment appropriations needed to finance this measure are to be accommodated within the appropriations for the EAFRD included in the Commission’s forthcoming Draft Budget 2025 and will be offset by a corresponding decrease in payment needs in subsequent years.