

EN
P-002947/2019
Answer given by Mr Stylianides
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.10.2019)

In April and June 2019 the Commission launched two calls to all Member States to contribute to the “rescEU transition reserve”. To date, the rescEU reserve comprises 9 firefighting airplanes and 6 firefighting helicopters from six Member States.

The Commission understands that for technical reasons Portugal could not contribute assets to the “rescEU transition reserve”. However, Portugal has been very committed to the transition process in general and has participated in all technical meetings. It has also expressed an interest in actively contributing capacities in the future. The next call for national capacities under “rescEU transition” will take place in 2020. Portugal will again be able to participate.

In parallel, work is already under way at the EU level – with the cooperation of Member States, including Portugal – to identify risk management capabilities across the EU and to strengthen the exchange of best practices in prevention and preparedness.

In case of an emergency, additional rescEU capacities can be deployed to Portugal. All Member States will be able to benefit from rescEU capacities irrespective of their direct participation in the transition phase.

It is worth highlighting that Portugal is a committed member of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. It has actively taken part in recent deployments to disaster zones, inside and outside Europe.