Droughts are natural disasters falling within the scope of the EU Solidarity Fund. The Fund could be activated if the affected Member States submit their applications within 12 weeks of the date of the first official action undertaken by the public authorities in response to the drought. The applications must demonstrate that total direct damage exceeds 0.6% of gross national income (i.e. EUR 1.178 billion in the case of the Czech Republic, EUR 2.862 billion in the case of Poland). In the event of a regional disaster, total direct damage must exceed 1.5% of the regional gross domestic product.

Solidarity Fund assistance may be used for public emergency and recovery operations. The compensation of private damage, including in agriculture, is not eligible.

However, Member States can support farm resilience and farmers in tackling natural disasters such as droughts as well as adaptation to agricultural risks relating to climate change via the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)\(^1\). Support for investments in irrigation, agro-environmental practices (including targeted advice and support for changes in crops and farming practices), investments to restore damaged production potential to compensatory elements such as production insurances and income stabilisation tools can be activated by Members States in their respective Rural Development Programmes and thus benefit from EAFRD funding.

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\(^1\) Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013