As the Commission pointed out in its reply to written question E-001479/2022 ‘the project about which the Honourable Member inquires is financed under the Rural Development Programme (RDP) of Madeira 2014-2022, under measure 8 that offers support for prevention of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events. The eligible costs include setting up and maintenance of protective infrastructure such as forest paths, tracks, water supply points, cleared areas and accesses’.

The Rural Development Programmes approved by the Commission include the general framework and provide for the necessary EU budgetary resources for the implementation of concrete measures. Based on the share of responsibilities between the EU and the Member States in the use of EU Funds, national authorities are responsible for the design and implementation of the RDP. This includes the definition of eligibility conditions, as well as the selection and payment of projects. Detailed information on eligibility conditions applicable to this specific project can be found by contacting the RDP Managing Authority¹.

Additionally, as the road in question crosses a Natura 2000 site², the project has to comply with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive³.

The Commission would like to recall that any discrepancies in the implementation of EU legislation should in the first instance be resolved by bringing an action based on legislation in force at national level. Additionally, complaints of alleged breach of the EU law by the responsible Portuguese authorities may be submitted via the official webpage⁴.

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² Site PTMAD0001, Laurissilva da Madeira
³ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206 22.7.1992, p. 7). According to Article 6(3), ‘any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.’