

**Question for written answer E-001700/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Giuseppe Antoci (The Left)

Subject: Information on managing and preventing fires in Sicily and Italy

Recent data released by the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) and the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)¹ illustrate the alarming situation regarding fires in Italy, with Sicily particularly affected. From 1 January to 30 July 2024, 615 fires were detected across Italy, covering a total area of 221 km². More specifically, the amount of forested areas damaged by fires in the first eight months of 2024 came to 40 km² of forest area, or 18 % of the total.

Land in 12 out of 20 Italian regions has been affected by fire. The most affected regions are Sicily, Calabria, Sardinia and Puglia, accounting for around 85 % of the total burnt area across Italy². Sicily in particular accounts for 45 % of the total³, with the Province of Agrigento the most affected⁴.

Given the frequency and increasing intensity of these events:

1. Can the Commission say what initiatives are envisaged for improving fire risk management, especially in highly vulnerable areas such as Sicily?
2. How can it support local and regional authorities in implementing effective prevention strategies, especially in terms of funding advanced technologies and critical infrastructure?
3. What action will it take to strengthen the capacity for immediate response and the effectiveness of preventive measures across the EU?

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¹ <https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/it/istituto-informa/comunicati-stampa/anno-2024/incendi-forestali-da-gennaio-a-luglio-2024-in-linea-con-la-media-dal-2006-episodi-piu-gravi-in-sicilia-e-sardegna-a-vieste-salva-la-copertura-forestale>.

² <https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/files2024/area-stampa/comunicati-stampa/tabella3.pdf>.

³ <https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/files2024/area-stampa/comunicati-stampa/figura-1.pdf>.

⁴ 48 km² of land affected by fire.