

**Question for written answer E-002796/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Nikolas Farantouris (The Left)

Subject: Speeding up procedures and increasing EU financial assistance to respond to natural disasters in the Member States

The EU Solidarity Fund¹ is the EU's main instrument to support Member States in the context of natural disasters, as well as an important expression of solidarity with affected Member States, their regions and their residents. However, the procedures for assessing requests and paying out funds are subject to significant delays, while the final amount of European assistance remains low due to the application of low calculation factors. For example, following the catastrophic floods that hit central Greece in September 2023 – affecting Thessaly in particular – the advance payment was approved on 23 January 2024², paid on 8 February 2024 and the Commission's proposal to mobilise the EUSF was only published on 27 August 2024³. At the same time, while the total damage was estimated at over EUR 2.3 billion, the EU's total contribution amounts to only EUR 101.5 million. These limitations hamper the timely and meaningful support of affected regions and send a negative message to citizens about the EU's effectiveness.

In view of the above:

1. Will the Commission speed up the procedures for assessing requests, initiating payout procedures and disbursing EU funds and, if so, how?
2. Will the Commission propose a significant increase in EUSF funds in the next Multiannual Financial Framework as well as an increase in the calculation factors relating to the provision of EUSF financial assistance?

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¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02002R2012-20200401>

² https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/whats-new/newsroom/23-01-2024-commission-adopts-decision-to-support-greece-with-eur-25-million-as-an-advance-from-the-eu-solidarity-fund_en

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52024PC0325>