

Question for written answer E-003242/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Leire Pajín (S&D)

Subject: European Union prevention and response capabilities in the face of wildfire seasons exacerbated by climate change

Extreme heat, prolonged drought and strong winds, intensified by the climate crisis, have led to unprecedented forest fires in Spain, France, Portugal, Greece, Montenegro and Albania, with loss of lives, homes and ecosystems. Europe is facing increasingly long and destructive wildfire seasons. In 2024, the historical average surface area burned was exceeded, and this year that figure has doubled.

We know that the EU has strengthened its response capacities for 2025 through the EU rescEU reserve, with aerial means, brigades and a new crisis coordination centre to anticipate and manage cross-sectoral impacts.

In light of the above:

1. How will the fight against forest fires be structurally integrated into the EU Preparedness Strategy – taking due account of the impact of extreme temperatures on public health – to ensure a more preventive than reactive response?
2. What concrete mechanisms have been put in place to implement the planned key actions – in addition to the extension of rescEU – in terms of cross-sectoral coordination and coordination with Member States?
3. Based on the experience gained this season, what best practices have been identified that will be adopted as standard practice so as to improve resilience and reduce the extent of burned areas in the coming years?

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