

**Question for written answer E-003686/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Responsibilities and use of funds for emergency management and forest firefighting

The forest fires that devastated Europe in summer 2025 have once again demonstrated the importance of effective emergency-management measures. Meanwhile, it has become clear that many places lack the necessary equipment, although billions are being poured into central programmes, bureaucracy and research initiatives. The Court of Auditors has criticised the fact that funds are often allocated on the basis of outdated or inaccurate data, as was the case in Greece and Portugal.

1. Why does the Commission continue to pursue centralised approaches instead of supporting flexible national strategies tailored to local circumstances, despite the fact that conditions vary greatly from region to region (heat in the south, rain in the north), and how does the Commission intend to ensure that emergency management remains primarily the responsibility of the Member States?
2. What is the Commission doing to ensure that EU funds are actually concentrated where the risk of forest fires is highest, rather than being distributed according to scattergun or politically motivated criteria?
3. How does the Commission intend to remedy the lack of up-to-date and accurate data and ensure risk assessments are based on reliable, up-to-date foundations?

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