

Question for written answer E-004339/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Need to update forest fire hazard maps in Greece and other EU Member States for enhanced prevention

Southern and Mediterranean countries, such as Greece, are experiencing the consequences of the climate crisis with increasing frequency and intensity of forest fires every year.

Prevention is crucial for more effective fire management, and investing in preventive measures, such as clearing, firebreaks and fuel management, drastically reduces the risk of disasters, protects the natural environment and local communities and limits future financial and operational needs for emergency response.

However, investments in prevention must be based on sound data and reliable planning. According to the European Court of Auditors' Special Report,¹ the Greek authorities continue to rely on forest fire risk maps from 1980² and the failure to review the data for 45 years creates significant problems in the rational selection of effective prevention projects, leading to an untargeted use of Community funds.

In view of this:

1. What measures does the Commission intend to put in place to ensure that Member States, including Greece, immediately draw up updated and scientifically substantiated forest fire risk maps, using data such as that of EFFIS and the most modern methodologies?
2. Does the Commission intend to make the drawing up of updated forest fire risk maps mandatory for all Member States on a regular basis, as part of a harmonised response to the impacts of the climate crisis and strengthening prevention at EU level?

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¹ The report notes that in December 2024 the Greek authorities were working on updating the relevant Presidential Decree (<https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications/SR-2025-16>). However, almost a year later, and despite the current Government's six years in power, no revision of the maps has yet been published.

² In Greece, forests and forest areas that are particularly sensitive to forest fires are defined in Presidential Decree 575/1980.