Question for written answer E-001861/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Dana in Valencia: 'build back better' principle and gaps in RESTORE cohesion mechanisms

The 'isolated high-altitude depression' (*depresión aislada en niveles altos* or *dana*) in October 2024 caused devastating damage in Valencia. The RESTORE mechanism has made the use of cohesion funds more flexible. However, a recent European Parliament study (PE 776.001) has found that the 'build back better' principle has still only been integrated to a limited extent. Some critical gaps remain: a lack of risk-based selection criteria, outdated territorial assessment tools, insufficient monitoring and low community involvement. European funds therefore risk being used to simply restore pre-existing infrastructure without incorporating resilience standards or reducing exposure to extreme events, which will become more common and more intense.

In view of the above:

1. What specific climate resilience and risk reduction indicators does the Commission plan to require from beneficiary states and territories in their monitoring systems to check whether funds produce long-term benefits that go beyond mere restoration?

2. How will the Commission incorporate the 'build back better' principle in its 2028-2034 cohesion regulations in operational terms?

3. What measures will the Commission take to improve local and territorial institutions' capacity – particularly in the Valencian Community – and ensure affected communities are truly involved in decisions regarding resilient reconstruction?

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