

Question for written answer E-003210/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Fires: The ‘costed’ shortage of personnel and infrastructure leaves ordinary people in Greece and the EU unprotected

Fifteen people dead, including firefighters, three of them in Greece, dozens injured, hundreds of homes and properties destroyed and 4.3 million acres of torched land is the toll of the fires in France, Spain, and Greece, so far. In Greece, enormous destruction was caused in Rethymno, Boeotia, Paros, and Poikilo Oros in Attica.

Both here and throughout the EU, unified firefighting planning with a primary focus on prevention is an ‘unknown concept’. As for the much-vaunted rescEU, in practice it legitimises and perpetuates the shortage of personnel, firefighting equipment and infrastructure.

In view of the above:

1. What is the Commission’s position on the request for the victims of the fires in Greece, Spain, France and other countries to be compensated immediately – for 100% of the damage they suffered – from the EUSF, bypassing the unacceptable conditions that exclude them?
2. What is the Commission’s position on the fact that the rescEU mechanism aims to recycle a minimum of fire-fighting equipment from country to country, since covering needs at national level is ruled out on the basis of the cost-benefit criterion?
3. What is the Commission’s position on the fact that the development of a unified fire protection plan with an emphasis on prevention, the organisation of ground forces within the framework of integrated forest management and protection and firefighting and the staffing of Fire Brigades and Forest Services with all the required personnel are considered unnecessary costs – and therefore not prioritised – within the framework of EU policy that endangers people, public property and the environment?

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