

Question for written answer E-003261/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: The need for a modern European Natural Disaster Response Fund

The devastating forest fires experienced by Greece, Cyprus, France and Spain, directly affect citizens' quality of life and confirm the need for a fully-fledged European response and reconstruction fund.

Europe seeks, through the rescEU mechanism, to support Member States that need help with fighting fires but the frequency of the disasters is such that the budget of the EU Solidarity Fund, which provides financial support for infrastructure reconstruction, is unable to provide sufficient funding.

Restoring property, infrastructure and forest ecosystems is a necessary condition for protecting the quality of life of European citizens. The European Solidarity Fund needs to evolve into a new European Natural Disaster Response Fund with a guaranteed, independent and sufficient budget in the new MFF 2028-2034, to protect forests and water resources, prevent soil erosion, make infrastructure more resilient and support citizens in the areas affected.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it intend to set up a new European Natural Disaster Response Fund with guaranteed funding and common standards and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms?
2. Does it intend to create a new framework of European assistance to compensate citizens affected by natural disasters?
3. Does it intend to take steps to introduce a special point-awarding system for local and regional authorities affected by natural disasters when direct funding is given by the European Commission?

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