Priority question for written answer P-003198/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Effectiveness of rescEU and availability of resources to tackle ongoing fires in France

For several weeks now, exceptionally intense fires have been sweeping across Europe, and France in particular. They have already claimed the lives of several firefighters and destroyed thousands of hectares of land. This crisis highlights the limitations of rescEU, which is designed to complement national capabilities, with the Member States retaining the primary responsibility for civil security.

RescEU resources have been deployed, but they are still at a very low level given the intensity of the fires. The fact remains that the needs have been known for several years and extreme weather events are on the rise.

This situation reveals a worrying mismatch between EU statements and the capabilities that are actually available.

With the above in mind:

1. How does the Commission justify the lack of planning and slow pace of procurement when the needs have been apparent for a long time?

2. How does the Commission intend to put European manufacturers first when it comes to developing autonomous capacity for water bombers, rather than remaining dependent on a foreign supplier?

3. What emergency measures are envisaged to shore up rescEU as of the end of the 2026 season, and what criteria led to the deployment of an Italian water bomber aircraft in Tunisia, when there was a lack of resources in the Member States?

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