

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002654/25
to the Commission
Leire Pajín (S&D), Nicolás González Casares (S&D)
(1 July 2025)**

Subject: Heatwave in Southern Europe and measures under the Preparedness Strategy to combat the adverse effects of climate change

At the end of June 2025, the authorities of multiple countries in Southern Europe sent their respective citizens alerts about high temperatures, which reached record-high levels. According to one study, approximately 43 000 people die each year due to extreme heat, and projections indicate that deaths linked to heat could triple with respect to current rates. The risks associated with climate change must be urgently addressed to avoid putting EU citizens' health and safety at even greater risk.

1. What concrete measures is the Commission taking in collaboration with Member States to prevent deaths, forest fires and other adverse effects of heatwaves?
2. To what extent will the Commission integrate the fight against the worst effects of heatwaves in Europe into its Preparedness Union Strategy and, specifically, in the next strategy on adaptation to climate change?
3. How does the Commission intend to ensure adequate funding for adaptation to climate change in the next multiannual financial framework?

Submitted: 1.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(5 September 2025)**

The primary cause of climate change is the increase in greenhouse gases (like carbon dioxide and methane) in the atmosphere, which trap heat and raise global temperatures.

As a result, many regions are experiencing more frequent and intense heat waves. The Commission's proposal to reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2040 will help prevent the worst global warming scenarios and reduce excess mortality from fossil fuel related air pollution.

Moreover, the Commission is funding the updating of the heat-health action guidance of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, and its European Climate and Health Observatory provides knowledge and guidance on heat health ⁽¹⁾.

The Preparedness Union Strategy ⁽²⁾ outlines all-hazard actions, including on the effects of climate change like heatwaves, which strengthen foresight, anticipation, and societal resilience and preparedness.

The forthcoming new climate resilience and risk management framework will establish a more ambitious and comprehensive EU approach to tackling climate risks and impacts, covering individual Member States and the EU.

The Commission adopted on 16 July 2025 its proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework. The next EU budget will continue to support climate and environmental objectives.

An overall 35% green target will unlock over EUR 700 billion for climate action and environmental objectives, including climate adaptation and resilience.

In parallel, Member States' investments and reforms will also play an important role in limiting the greenhouse gases emissions and better preparing their economies and societies for the effects of climate change.

⁽¹⁾ <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/observatory/evidence/health-effects/heat-and-health>.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/preparedness_en.