

**Question for written answer E-010909/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Fighting forest fires in the EU

Forest fires, whether accidental or deliberate, often started for economic reasons, destroy over 400 000 hectares of forest every year in Europe, mostly in the Mediterranean region. They cause significant losses in terms of human life, property, jobs and biodiversity, and in terms of the protective function afforded by forests.

In recent years, the EU and Member States have made major efforts to combat such catastrophes, but it seems that the measures taken are in no way enough to counter the threat. At the European Parliament, we have therefore requested on a number of occasions that the EU's resources and ability to tackle forest fires be increased, and we are calling for a legislative proposal to improve prevention.

What measures is the Commission taking to increase its ability to combat forest fires and to improve prevention?