

Question for written answer E-013621/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF)

Subject: Emergency aid request following floods in south-eastern France

At the end of last week, the Côte d'Azur was hit by violent storms and flooding. At the time of writing, 21 people have lost their lives and two people have been reported missing.

In addition to the terrible human cost of the flooding, the economic and financial impact promises to be severe:

- for homes directly affected by the floods: power cuts, looting, property damage, closure of shops, etc.;
- for all those deprived of public services: schools have closed, transport networks have been severely disrupted and roads have been blocked;
- for local authorities providing assistance: water pumping, clearing and cleaning up streets, mobilisation of assistance, temporary relocation of the families affected, etc.

Given the extent of the damage, the French authorities are expected to declare Alpes-Maritimes a natural disaster area during the next Council of Ministers.

In these circumstances, and given that France is the second largest net contributor to the EU budget, is the Commission planning to provide emergency financial assistance to those affected via the EU Solidarity Fund?