

**Question for written answer E-000638/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Earthquake in the European Union - Melilla

Early this morning there was an earthquake in the European Union measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale. With its epicentre in the Alborán Sea, its effects were felt along the Málaga coastline and in Granada, Seville, Jaén and Melilla.

No one was injured in Spain or any of its territory, although there was considerable damage to property. In Melilla, many people came out into the streets for fear that damage visible on the façades of buildings would cause them to collapse or that cornices and other ornamental pieces of masonry would fall.

Between 4.22 am, when the earthquake occurred, and 8 am as many as nine aftershocks were felt, ranging between 2.9 and 4.6 on the Richter scale. Their epicentre was also in the Alborán Sea.

Does the EU have any approved protocols for earthquakes such as the one that occurred early this morning within its territory? If so, are these protocols in turn agreed with the authorities of countries neighbouring the EU, such as Morocco? Which EU financing facility can the victims of this earthquake turn to, to remedy the damage caused?