

**Question for written answer E-006847/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: Fires on Thassos island

After the large fires on Chios and Evia islands and other regions, a fire enormous in length struck the island of Thassos on 10 September 2016. The results were dramatic: the fire burnt down thousands of hectares of forest area, olive trees, livestock farms, livestock. Villages were evacuated, lives were endangered, at least five firefighters and residents who participated in the fire extinguishing efforts were injured. The beekeepers, farmers, livestock farmers and the tourism sector on the island suffered great consequences.

The prime minister's statements show that the government does not intend to provide the farmers and working-class households affected with full compensation. The government – along with the previous governments – bears great responsibility for understaffing and underfinancing the forest fire prevention and fire-fighting agencies, leaving the forests without protection and putting in danger the lives and property of working-class families.

Taking into account that it consistently refuses to activate the Solidarity Fund for the compensation of 'affected individuals', mostly working-class households affected by the disasters:

- What is its position on the immediate activation of the Solidarity Fund:
 - for the full compensation of the affected working-class households and producers on Thassos island?
 - for the financing the required flood defences on the island which are urgently needed by the working class but not a priority among business groups?