

**Question for written answer E-009153/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Fire prevention and rural exodus

When rural areas are abandoned, grazing and farm land are lost. Areas that were previously worked by man return to their natural wooded state, producing a build-up of combustible material. Fires can sweep over vast areas, burning hundreds of hectares of land, threatening city centres and jeopardising the local economy. Meanwhile the authorities turn their backs on the problem and funds are directed towards stopgap measures rather than real solutions that would prevent fires. Money continues to be invested in extinguishing fires, with prevention measures pushed to one side. The rural exodus means that the number of fires Spain's forest firefighters have to tackle across the country is on the rise, but they themselves, it should be pointed out, have little job security.

Does the Commission feel that in failing to take action the Spanish Government may be infringing Council Regulation (EEC) No 2158/92 on protection of the Community's forests against fire?

What checks does the European Union conduct to supervise the proper use of EU funds for fire prevention in Spain?