

**Question for written answer E-009335/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)

Subject: The severe drought in Somalia

On 2 November 2016, the UN's Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia sent out an urgent appeal for humanitarian assistance, amid worsening conditions of drought in the country that have left hundreds of thousands of Somalis facing severe food and water shortages. It seems that overall five million Somalis – or more than 40 % of the country's population – do not have sufficient food. More than one million of these are in a situation of 'crisis' or 'emergency', and this figure is now projected to rise to over 1.3 million by May 2017. In addition, it seems that over 320 000 children aged under five are acutely malnourished, and of those more than 50 000 are considered to be severely malnourished. These children are the most vulnerable to the current drought. On 12 November, the President of the Federal Government of Somalia called for humanitarian assistance for those affected by the drought. The state authorities of Jubaland, Puntland, Somaliland and Galmudug also issued appeals on 2 October, 5 October, 17 November and 30 November respectively, highlighting the urgency of the situation. In addition to drought, a rise in conflict-related displacements and the withdrawal of international troops have presented additional humanitarian challenges.

How is the Commission considering contributing to the alleviation of the suffering of those in urgent need of humanitarian assistance?