

**Question for written answer E-000324/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Lorenzo Fontana (ENF)

Subject: Earthquakes and bad weather in central Italy

On 24 August 2016 a large part of central Italy was hit by an magnitude 6 earthquake. Its epicentre lay along the Valle del Tronto, between the municipalities of Accumoli (RI) and Arquata del Tronto (AP). Two more powerful quakes, the second measuring a magnitude of 6.5, were recorded on 26 and 30 October. More recently still, four earthquakes with a magnitude of between 5 and 5.5 in quick succession were followed by an avalanche that swept away the Rigopiano hotel resort in Farindola (Pescara).

Six bodies have been retrieved so far from the avalanche, with 23 people still missing. The INGV, Italy's national institute of geophysics and volcanology, estimates that there have been 48 000 seismic events so far since 24 August.

Damages are estimated at EUR 10 billion. To this must be added a wave of exceptionally bad weather which has led to the evacuation of 13 000 people and rendered 40 % of buildings unfit for use. The seismic sequence remains active.

- Does the Commission plan to grant immediately derogations to budget restrictions so funds may be released to help the communities and businesses affected?
- Will it set up a specific fund to address the extremely severe emergency situation in the areas concerned?