

**Question for written answer E-003887/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Fires

According to provisional figures released by Spain's Environment Ministry, a surface area of 28 382.84 hectares was burned by fire in the country during the first four months of 2017. This represents a 20% increase on the decade average, and is 14 times higher than that recorded in the same period last year. Given that the vast majority of the land concerned is scrubland and open countryside, and that, under the Forestry Act, as amended by the government in 2015, the autonomous communities may allow burned areas to be used for farming, what is the Commission's view of the fire figures recorded in Spain in the period concerned? Has the Commission contacted the Spanish authorities with a view to obtaining information on this matter? What are the Commission's views on the Forestry Act of 2015?