

**Question for written answer E-004021/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Fires in central Portugal - municipality of Pedrógão Grande and neighbouring municipalities, district of Leiria

The fires that have been raging in central Portugal since Saturday after starting in the municipality of Pedrógão Grande have already affected a number of municipalities in the north of the district of Leiria, the district of Coimbra and the district of Castelo Branco, resulting in a major tragedy that is unparalleled in recent decades. According to the current toll, there have been 61 deaths and 62 people have been injured, some seriously, including children. A number of villages have been evacuated and roads have been closed. Houses have burnt down, along with large areas of forest and farmland. Many families have lost their livelihood as well as their loved ones and their homes.

1. What urgent measures can be triggered at EU level to support the victims of the disaster and repair the damage? What are the conditions governing the mobilisation of this support?
2. Is the Commission prepared to propose exceptional measures – such as excluding from the budget deficit calculations the appropriations that Portugal will need to mobilise to repair damage, support the victims and, given the continuing adverse weather conditions, implement preventive and civil protection measures to protect the population against similar disasters?