

**Question for written answer E-006592/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Fires

In recent days, we have seen a series of fires with dramatic consequences in different parts of Spain and Portugal, resulting in the death of three people in Galicia and six in Portugal. We all also clearly remember the devastating fire in Pedrógão Grande last June which killed 60 people.

Unfortunately, such extreme situations are becoming less exceptional and are repeated each year. Global warming is not unconnected to these devastating fires: desertification, the lack of rainfall and ever more extreme heat waves (along with issues such as rural exodus, inappropriate spatial planning and inadequate resources for fire prevention and firefighting) imply that such fires will become more frequent.

Given this context:

1. Can the Commission say whether there are any budgetary appropriations for preventing and combating such fires?
2. Has the Commission drawn up a strategy against global warming with measures to prevent, combat and mitigate the consequences of extreme heatwaves, droughts and forest fires?
3. In view of the intentional nature of a high percentage of the fires recorded, does the Commission envisage specific legislation on land use to homogenise and raise the standards of protection for burnt lands?