

Question for written answer E-004221/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Support for European farmers in the event of drought

Climate change is taking place right before our eyes. The scientific community agrees that if the global temperature reaches a level that is more than 2 °C higher than the temperature of the pre-industrial era, the risk of dangerous and potentially catastrophic changes to the environment will dramatically increase. Unfortunately, many sectors of the economy, in particular agriculture, have already been affected by such changes. Many European countries are experiencing unprecedented droughts, forest fires and deaths connected with these events.

Global warming is creating increased rainfall in some parts of the world and serious droughts in others. More and more frequently, EU Member States are also being hit by natural disasters of this kind. This year, the EU has once again been affected by serious droughts, and it is predicted that, as the global temperature continues to rise, ever larger areas will be affected. Agricultural organisations already estimate that cereal harvests this season will be 7-10% smaller this year than during the same period last year.

In view of the very difficult agricultural situation, is the Commission planning, in addition to its existing programmes, to bring in additional support for Member States, or even directly for European farmers affected by drought?