

**Question for written answer E-001547/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: European Solidarity Fund assistance for the storm Vaia

Between 27 and 29 October 2018, strong 'sirocco' airstreams struck north-eastern Italy, funnelling along the slopes of the Alpine valleys and reaching speeds of 150 km/h.

The storm known as Vaia was the most destructive event ever recorded in Italian forests. The damage to the forests amounted to some EUR 923 million and 42 500 hectares of land were severely affected, with 8.6 million cubic metres of deadwood. A similar area was partially damaged, with more than 13 million cubic metres of felled trees.

The most affected areas include the province of Belluno and the Asiago Plateau in the region of Veneto, with damage to the economy and electricity blackouts for thousands of users. Many businesses are on their knees in an area that is the productive heart of the country. Significant damage also occurred in Trentino-Alto Adige, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Brescia and Sondrio.

Can the Commission therefore say:

- 1) whether the Italian Government has submitted an application for assistance from the European Solidarity Fund; if so, when the money will be paid out and how much it will be;
- 2) over and beyond the emergency, what it intends to do to address the issue of hydrogeological instability in these areas and in the Alps?