

**Question for written answer E-001813/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Konstantinos Papadakis (NI)

Subject: Need for urgent measures to address the damage caused by the devastating flooding in Heraklion and Lasithi on the island of Crete

Following the recent storms of 5-6 April and the ensuing flooding, residents of the prefectures of Heraklion and Lasithi have again suffered damage to their property and infrastructure: main road arteries and rural roads have been extensively damaged by landslides and streams that have overflowed due to the poor state of the wells, infrastructure, including bridges, greenhouses and PPC pylons, has been affected and livestock and crops have suffered wholesale destruction. Dozens of people have been cut off due to the lack of civil protection measures.

This is far from the first time that heavy rainfall has shown how vulnerable Crete is, since it lacks flood defences and other infrastructure as a result of the long-term policy of the EU and successive Greek governments of under-funding such projects. Flood defence works on a cost-benefit basis, even where eligible for funding, are not being carried out because they are not expected to generate profits; this means that the people's needs are being totally neglected.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

- Will it remove the unreasonable limits and constraints on the activation of the EU's so-called Solidarity Fund with a view to providing immediate compensation for ordinary working people affected by this flooding and repairing all the damage recorded in Crete as a result of the disasters that have repeatedly struck the island this year?