

**Question for written answer E-002322/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
José Manuel Fernandes (PPE)

Subject: State of play regarding RescEU following the Portuguese fires in 2017

In February 2019, acting on a Commission proposal, Parliament and the Council adopted a reform of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism through an amendment to Decision No 1313/2013/EU. As a result of the reform and strengthening of this mechanism, European civil protection is now based on a three-tier pyramid. At the bottom are the Member States' civil protection systems; in the middle is a pool of shared resources: the European Civil Protection Pool; at the top is the EU's own capacity: rescEU. In view of the entry into force of the new legislative framework:

1. Is the EU ready to prevent tragedies, such as the tragedy of the Portuguese fires in 2017, from repeating themselves?
2. What is the state of play on the ground with regard to RescEU? Is the Commission making full use of RescEU?

When will the Commission acquire its own means to handle natural disasters within the framework of RescEU? What means will it acquire?