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Answer given by M. Hahn
on behalf of the Commission
(11.9.2012)

The Commission does not share the Honourable Member's description of how regional policy funds are being used. Regional funds are used across the EU to support a balanced range of development actions. Both the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund can be, and are being, used to support a variety of measures in the areas of risk prevention and environmental infrastructure. EU funding, notably the EU Solidarity Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), can also contribute to restoring areas damaged by natural disasters and, in the case of EAFRD, also for introducing appropriate prevention actions. Disaster response assistance is also available through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

The specific questions raised by the Honourable Member fall within the competence of the national authorities.