Question for written answer P-002389/2019 to the Commission
Rule 138
Sandra Pereira (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Fires in Portugal

Forest fires are continuing to cause massive devastation in Portugal. High temperatures combined with a prolonged period of drought are conducive to the large-scale fires which, unfortunately, ravage Portugal year after year.

In recent days the districts of Santarém, Castelo Branco, Guarda and Viseu have been the hardest hit and the fires have claimed an area twice as large as that affected since the start of the year. More than 8000 hectares of forest have been destroyed, mostly in the municipalities of Mação and Vila de Rei, and in some parishes more than 90% of local forests have gone up in flames. Thousands of people are fighting the fires, dozens have been injured, around 20 communities are threatened by the flames and it is not yet possible to put an accurate figure on the losses suffered. As in the past, however, the impact of the fire will surely be felt for many years to come.

1. What forms of assistance have thus far been requested by the Portuguese Government, and what forms of assistance have been made available by the Commission?
2. What additional forms of assistance could be provided to offset the losses suffered and to prevent similar fires from occurring in future?