

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3431/00

by Pasqualina Napoletano (PSE), Fiorella Ghilardotti (PSE), Gianni Vattimo (PSE), Bruno Trentin (PSE), Elena Paciotti (PSE) and Luciano Caveri (ELDR)
to the Commission

Subject: Floods in northern Italy

As a result of exceptionally bad weather in north-west Italy, extremely serious floods have occurred, especially in the regions of the Valle d'Aosta, Piedmont, Liguria and part of Lombardy. The number of casualties is very high: 23 dead, 11 missing and, according to newspaper reports, more than 40 000 evacuated. The floods have also caused extensive damage to agriculture and industry (amounting to ITL 3450 bn, according to initial estimates).

In the light of the European Parliament's resolution of 28 January 2000 on storms in Europe and the statements made on 18 January by Mr Barnier, Member of the Commission, during the plenary debate on the subject, will the Commission consider making available to the regions concerned, in consultation with the Italian national and local authorities, resources from the Structural Funds and the EAGGF Guarantee Section with a view to facilitating reconstruction of infrastructure in those areas and speeding up work to bring the situation back to normal for all those hit by these disasters?