

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4280/07
by Yannick Vaugrenard (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Fires in Greece

At a time when Greece is being ravaged by fires and the European Union Member States are focusing their endeavours on providing assistance for local civil protection forces, what has become of the European civil protection force which was being projected in 2006?

As things now stand, Member States decide on an ad hoc and voluntary basis whether they are able to make available civil protection resources. Is this sufficient? What is the situation regarding mutual arrangements for the sharing of civil protection resources?

What action does the Commission intend to take to establish a truly joint Union response in the eventuality of major emergencies caused by fires, flooding or marine pollution to replace the ad hoc and piecemeal approach currently being adopted?

While the Monitoring and Information Centre currently encompasses numerous countries, no desk officer has been clearly designated.

What are the Commission's thoughts and recommendations on these serious issues, concerning which solidarity at European level requires organisation and planning if it is to be effective?