

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0724/09  
by Jean-Claude Martinez (NI)  
to the Council

Subject: Floods in southern France

I wish to draw the Council's attention to the floods and tornados that have devastated the French regions of Aquitaine and Midi-Pyrénées, with an epicentre in the *département* of Landes, an area of forests, which have once again been wrecked.

Given the extent of the disaster and the damage done to transport networks of every kind (rail, road, electricity), telecommunications, forestry businesses, farms, drinking water supply infrastructure and major public facilities, I wish to ask for available lines of credit to be explored and mobilised, both from the European Union's Solidarity Fund and from the regional and rural development programmes.

In similar flood situations in the past, the following budgets were mobilised:

- EUR 444 million for devastated German regions
- EUR 134 million for flooded regions of Austria.

The situation of our farmers, foresters and smallholders, and the isolation of hundreds of elderly people, whose already difficult situation now calls for immediate solidarity, give particular cause for concern.

Will the Council say which budget lines can be mobilised as of now and how long it will take to implement these appropriations and the various other measures that the victims of the floods can expect?