

**Question for written answer E-5297/2010
to the Commission**
Rule 117
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Subject: European civil protection force

The climate change now facing the entire planet is largely responsible for the increasing number and severity of natural disasters, which are destroying both ecosystems and economic infrastructure, as well as claiming lives. In Romania, 20 people have died following floods in recent days, and such disasters are on a scale that goes beyond the ability of national authorities to cope with them.

Back in 2006 Michel Barnier argued in favour of creating a European civil protection force, EuropeAid, to prevent and combat natural disasters. The Barnier report points out that 'the price of non-Europe in crisis management is too high. First and foremost, a series of hastily organised individual responses is no match for an EU response that has been planned, organised and tested against specific scenarios'.

Bearing in mind Parliament's resolution of 10 February 2010, which called for the creation of a European civilian rapid response force to deal with natural disasters, what action has the Commission taken to date with a view to achieving this objective?