

**Question for written answer E-009148/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
François Alfonsi (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Reliability of weather warning procedures

Weather forecasting has become a vital factor in preparing for natural disasters and their economic and social consequences.

Both public sector organisations and companies rely on weather forecasts. However, the increasing involvement of a range of different bodies in this field is causing confusion as a result of sometimes contradictory weather warnings. Members of the public are being placed at risk and considerable costs are being generated by unnecessary weather alerts.

In view of these recurring problems, official single-source weather warning maps should be introduced and the most effective forecasting body given the task of issuing weather warning alerts. This would prevent dangerous misunderstandings. Although these official maps would have to be made available free of charge to rival meteorological organisations, the confusion which currently undermines the very efficiency of the system would be avoided. If the EU, which is responsible for questions of public safety, were to back this proposal, situations that might potentially endanger EU citizens could be ruled out.

Does the Commission have any plans to draw up a directive setting out provisions of this kind?