

**Question for written answer E-000206/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**María do Céu Patrão Neves (PPE)**

Subject: Natural disaster response: training workers in the outermost regions

The Azores, an outermost region of volcanic origin, is highly likely to experience a natural disaster and has a high risk of seismic activity, since it is located above three tectonic plates. Given the specific needs of isolated regions, it is important to ensure enhanced cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions, where serious emergencies or imminent threats are concerned. It is vital to prepare the Civil Protection Services for such eventualities and to continuously update workers' knowledge through ideas exchanges with their counterparts.

As the EU Civil Protection Mechanism organises various activities to help achieve these aims, I would ask the Commission:

1. How many training exercises and activities are organised each year by the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and what do they entail?
2. What assistance requests have been submitted by the Azores regional authorities? What do they aim to achieve?
3. What access do workers in the outermost regions have to training exercises and activities organised by the EU Civil Protection Mechanism? Who bears the costs of these exercises/activities?
4. What percentage of workers in the Azores participate in training exercises and activities organised by the EU Civil Protection Mechanism?
5. Has the Commission identified the specific emergency response needs of the outermost regions, specifically of the Azores?