

**Question for written answer E-007236/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz (PPE), Angelika Niebler (PPE) and Alajos Mészáros (PPE)

Subject: Floods in Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary

Large parts of Central Europe have been battling for days with some of the worst flooding in decades, in some areas so bad that it resulted in the loss of human life. Many people were left homeless and whole villages had to be evacuated. It was extremely welcome that the President of Parliament expressed his gratitude on behalf of everyone here to those dealing with the floods for their selfless and dedicated efforts. Though this acknowledgement is very important, it will not undo the devastation that has been caused, help in the reconstruction efforts or prevent the recurrence of natural disasters of this kind.

1. Are there sufficient resources currently available in the EU's Solidarity Fund to deal with the problems faced by the Central European countries affected by the floods?
2. Does the Commission see any possibility of redressing the damage and compensating victims of flooding by immediately redistributing resources from other areas or by using residual cash as a source of funding?
3. Would the Commission permit the redeployment of EU funds in these circumstances?
4. Which part of the budget over the next few years does the Commission envisage using to help repair destroyed or damaged flooding defences?