

**Question for written answer E-010658/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Floods in south-west France - combating global warming and the EU Solidarity Fund

In June 2013, severe floods hit France and some valleys in the Pyrenees in particular. Damage amounting to hundreds of millions of euros was done to public and private property. Many villages were cut off, many businesses lost their means of production and farmers suffered considerable losses.

This was not an isolated extreme weather event – Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Spain were also affected. In response to these events, on 3 July 2013 Parliament adopted a resolution on floods in Europe (2013/2683(RSP)) (P7_TA(2013)0316) calling for the rules on the functioning of the EU Solidarity Fund, which was established by Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 of 11 November 2002, to be reviewed and simplified and for the allocation of aid to the affected regions to be speeded up.

The sheer scale of the devastation caused by the floods in south–west France fully justifies the urgent allocation of aid from the EU Solidarity Fund.

This crisis management aid should be accompanied by measures aimed at preventing ‘natural’ disasters. It is clear that in recent years, these events have become more frequent, serious and complex and their impact even more devastating. What is more, the intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) has warned that these extreme weather events are likely to get significantly worse. The EU should, therefore, take urgent action to combat global warming. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions should become our absolute priority in order to limit the global temperature rise to below 2°C.

1. How does the Commission intend to combat global warming more effectively, thus minimising the risk of extreme weather events?
2. What progress has the Commission made in processing the applications for EUSF aid for south-west France?