

**Question for written answer E-002510/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Andrej Plenković (PPE)**

Subject: Croatia and the European Solidarity Fund

Over the past weeks Croatia has been struck by natural disasters which have caused serious damage and made life considerably more difficult for many of its inhabitants. Gorski Kotar, in Primorje-Gorski Kotar county, has been suffering the effects of heavy snow and ice, which have done immense damage to forests in this highland region. Meanwhile, the counties of Zagreb, Karlovac, Sisak-Moslavina, and Lika-Senj have been hit by severe flooding; many houses are inundated, infrastructure has been damaged, and day-to-day life for much of the population is under threat.

I personally have visited several of the affected areas and talked with local leaders and the appropriate agencies. They have enquired about the possibility of receiving support from the European Solidarity Fund after the damage as a whole has been assessed.

I am expecting a favourable response once Croatia has submitted an all-inclusive application to the European Solidarity Fund.

As a member of the Committee on Budgets I am interested to know how the Commission views the continued rise in the number of natural disasters in Member States resulting from climate change and, in the light of this, whether it thinks that enough resources overall have been allocated to the European Solidarity Fund.

On the strength of experience to date, does the Commission believe that the application threshold under the European Solidarity Fund has been set at the right level, or does it consider it to be too high in cases where applications are not pooled together?