

**Question for written answer E-006815/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: European solidarity and the fires in southern Europe

The damage and devastation caused by the fires that hit southern Europe in August, affecting mainland Spain and Portugal in particular but also the Spanish and Portuguese outermost islands, have once again revealed the absence of coordination that would enable Member States to give a rapid and effective response based on solidarity.

1. Does the Commission not take the view that the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) has been incapable of promptly alerting other Member States to the need for resources with which to take immediate action?
2. How does the Commission explain the fact that the mechanisms for preventing natural disasters have not made an efficient contribution to curbing the fires?
3. At a time when citizens are increasingly distancing themselves from the European project and have no clear picture of the benefits of greater integration, does the Commission not take the view that the delay in responding and providing support, and the lack of solidarity among Member States, could be a factor in a growing lack of confidence in the EU and the resurgence of nationalism?