

**Question for written answer E-005396/2018  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Josef Weidenholzer (S&D)**

Subject: Forest fires in the Kurdish region of Turkey

Since 27 July 2018, the countryside and natural habitats of the Kurdish regions in Turkey (Dersim/Tunceli) have been devastated as a consequence of military operations. Through these difficult-to-extinguish forest fires, the forests, animals, and people in the area have been endangered, and their livelihoods have been destroyed. Many places of worship belonging to the Alevite population were destroyed by this action.

- 1) Is the Commission aware of the extent of the forest fires in Turkey, particularly in the Kurdish regions and in Tunceli, and how does it evaluate the economic, ecological and social consequences of the forest fires, both for the region specifically and for Turkey as a whole?
- 2) How extensive is the internal migration arising from the forest fires in Turkey, and what measures can be taken to avoid further threats to the population?