

**Question for written answer E-000924/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Konstantinos Papadakis (NI)

Subject: Immediate compensation for victims in Crete

The death of four people following the devastating rainfall in Crete, which has caused widespread damage, is tragic testimony to the lack of flood defence mechanisms and infrastructure. Heraklion, Rethymno and Chania suffered landslides, streams and rivers burst their banks, terrain and buildings were flooded, vehicles were washed away and people were trapped. This placed a huge toll on the road network, on agricultural production and on homes. Villages, mostly in Chania, have been cut off and houses left without electricity or water.

Municipalities, regions, the government and the EU all share responsibility for their criminal failure to come up with a contingency plan to cope with this extraordinary situation and for not providing adequate funding for flood defences, retaining works, etc., or enough workforce and machinery. Authorities only consider the 'cost-benefit' element of flood defence projects, where priority is given to projects and infrastructure based on how profitable they are, rather than satisfying people's needs.

Will the Commission say:

- (1) Will it compensate households, the self-employed and poor farmers in affected areas and will it finance the rehabilitation of the road network and other damaged infrastructure from the so-called EU Solidarity Fund by removing the prohibitive limits and restrictions in the relevant regulation?
- (2) Which flood defence projects in Crete and all Greece have been integrated into European funding programmes?