

**Question for written answer E-002235/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Catastrophic damage caused by the extreme weather in Halkidiki

The deadly storms that ravaged Halkidiki on 10.7.2019 left seven people dead and many more injured. There has been a huge amount of damage to road infrastructure, homes, shops and crops and even to archaeological sites, while the electricity supply has been cut in many areas.

It has been shown once more that Halkidiki, which is a major tourist destination and a source of profit for the large tour operators, is, like many other regions of Greece, unequipped to cope with severe weather phenomena.

The policy of underfunding pursued by successive Greek governments, with corresponding implications for the resources allocated to the municipalities and regions, has led to criminal shortages of necessary projects and infrastructures meeting modern standards to address natural disasters. The EU's 'cost-benefit' approach and the rejection of projects in 'low risk areas' under the relevant directive mean that the necessary flood prevention, anti-fire and anti-seismic schemes and the establishment of an integrated early warning and prevention mechanism do not constitute a priority, as they do not provide business groups with the profits they expect.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

- Will it compensate working-class households, the self-employed and poor farmers in the affected areas and finance the rehabilitation of the road network and other damaged infrastructure, using resources from the so-called EU 'Solidarity Fund' by removing the prohibitive terms and conditions set by the relevant regulation for it to be activated?