

**Question for written answer E-002538/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Stelios Kympouropoulos (PPE)**

Subject: Take-up of funds for fire prevention and protection measures

Fires are a cause of climate change and environmental pollution, as well as having a major economic impact.

In addition to causing material damage, they also claim human lives, as tragically evidenced by the lethal fire of July 2018 in Mati, Attica, in which 102 people perished.

Given the substantial scope for improved fire prevention and protection:

1. Can the Commission say what European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund appropriations have been made available to Greece for forest fire prevention and fire protection measures and indicate the take-up percentage during the current programming period?
2. Why has there been no take-up of the Rural Development Programme funding, amounting to EUR 226 million, earmarked for the prevention of damage to forests from fires natural disasters and other catastrophic events, which has been underwritten by the Agricultural Fund for Rural Development?