

**Question for written answer E-003429/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Maria Spyraiki (PPE)

Subject: Protection of Seich Sou hilltop forest from *Tomicus piniperda* bark beetle infestation

Since May 2019, a *Tomicus piniperda* bark beetle infestation has laid to waste 350 hectares of the Seich Sou hilltop pine forest, that is to say over one-tenth the total forest area, on the outskirts of Thessaloniki. This particular insect cannot be treated by spraying or felling. The only way of effectively containing the infestation is to remove the affected trees immediately.

The main source of European funding for forests is the common agricultural policy (CAP). For 2015-2020, it provides for increased investment in forests, the development of forested areas, greater forest sustainability, damage prevention, the restoration of fire-damaged forests or forests ravaged by natural or other disasters and measures to make forest ecosystems more resistant and ecologically resilient.

1. In view of this, can the Commission say whether Greece had deployed all funding earmarked for increased investment in forests for the period 2015-2020?
2. Can any remaining funding or other emergency aid be channelled into the measures to repair damage inflicted by the bark beetle on the forestland outside Thessaloniki?