

**Question for written answer E-003568/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Fires in Indonesia

Fires, the worse since 2015, are currently raging across Indonesia. Forests and peat bogs are being destroyed to make way for new plantations, mainly for palm oil. The air is thick with smoke, making breathing difficult, especially for children and the elderly, who have to go to hospital to be given oxygen¹.

Stepping up international cooperation on stopping deforestation and encouraging forest restoration is one of the priorities the Commission has set in its Communication COM(2019) 352 final².

Furthermore, in its resolution on palm oil and deforestation of rainforests (2016/2222(INI)), Parliament pointed out that land mapping, including through use of satellite and geospatial technologies, is the only way to monitor palm oil concessions and put in place reforestation strategies.

What action has the Commission taken in light of the recent dramatic fires in Indonesia?

Has it urged the Indonesian Government to stop the fires at once and protect the health of its citizens?

Is the Commission providing palm oil producer countries with technical and financial assistance so they can strengthen their land registry regimes and improve the environmental sustainability of palm oil plantations, as called for in the aforementioned resolution?

¹ <https://www.greenpeace.org/italy/storia/6253/dentro-la-casa-dellossigeno-in-indonesia-dove-i-bambini-vengono-a-respirare/>

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:a1d5a7da-ad30-11e9-9d01-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF