

**Question for written answer E-000396/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Activating the assistance mechanism for natural disasters for those affected by Storm Gloria

Spain's Mediterranean coastline has been severely battered by Storm Gloria and, consequently, the Autonomous Communities of Catalonia, Valencia and the Balearic Islands have suffered significant material and economic damage. A number of deaths have also occurred. The number of storms that have ravaged the Mediterranean coastline over the last few months has become a cause for concern. Torrential rainfall (resulting from the HANA – isolated high-altitude depression – phenomenon) in October 2018 and October 2019 and very intense squalls, such as Storm Gloria, show that the Mediterranean is one of the areas in Europe most vulnerable to climate change.

To supplement the EU Solidarity Fund, the Commission approved a special financial mechanism in 2017 following the earthquake in Lazio and the fires in Madeira, so that when natural disasters occur, the cohesion policy co-finances 95% of the costs of rebuilding.

How does the Commission intend to activate this financial mechanism in view of the impact of Storm Gloria? Does it intend to strengthen this mechanism in the face of ever more intense storms resulting from climate change? What mechanisms does the EU have at its disposal to help those regions most vulnerable to climate change to adapt to the new climatic and environmental situation, such as the rise in sea level?