

**Question for written answer E-004618/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Ten firefighters assaulted in France every day

Summer fires are an opportunity for all to bear witness to and applaud the absolute courage of the firefighters who risk their lives tackling forest fires. On 20 August 2020, we commemorate the anniversary of the death of Franck Chesneau, who died when his plane crashed while fighting a fire in G  n  rac. In 2019, 11 firefighters died in the line of duty, leaving 26 orphaned children ¹ .

A shocking new development is that a certain section of population is attacking the emergency services. Following the shooting of a firefighter in Essonne on 14 July 2020, a female firefighter was injured while rescuing a motorcyclist whose scooter had been involved in an accident in Melun on 15 July 2020 ² .

In France, 3 411 firefighters were assaulted as they responded to emergencies in 2018 ³ , i.e. 10 firefighters were assaulted per day, up 40% from 2016 and four times more than in 2008. The figures were up 50% in the first six months of 2019 compared to the same period in 2018 ⁴ . 450 fire engines were damaged in attacks in 2018. Curiously, Corsica, French Overseas Territories and Western France seem to have been spared.

Does the Commission have information on the trends in the number of firefighters assaulted in Europe, broken down by country?

¹ https://www.pompiers.fr/sites/default/files/publications/file/deces_sc_2019.pdf. As of 31 December 2016, there were 246 800 firefighters in France (down 0.1% from the previous year), including 40 600 professional firefighters, 193 800 volunteer firefighters and 12 300 military firefighters. Women make up 16% of civilian firefighters, representing a total workforce of 36 822 women. <https://www.lavoixdunord.fr/318246/article/2018-02-15/les-sapeurs-pompiers-en-france-en-chiffres-cles>

² <https://www.leparisien.fr/seine-et-marne-77/seine-et-marne-une-femme-sapeur-pompier-blessee-lors-d-une-intervention-houleuse-16-07-2020-8353809.php>

³ https://inhesj.fr/sites/default/files/publications/files/2019-12/Note_41.pdf

⁴ <http://www.senat.fr/notice-rapport/2019/r19-193-notice.html>