Question for written answer E-006432/2020 to the Commission Rule 138 Vincenzo Sofo (ID)

Subject: Deployment of EU solidarity funding for Calabria

The Commission has decided, with Parliament's approval, to channel EU solidarity funding of over EUR 800 million into assistance for Croatia and Poland in dealing with the natural disasters that have occurred in 2020, accompanied by advance payments to seven Member States (Croatia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal and Spain) in response to the public health emergency caused by the pandemic in the first months of 2020.

Italy, however, has also been beset by disasters, as well as major public health emergencies attributable to COVID in 2020, Calabria being a case in point. Its health system is so precarious that the government has imposed a lockdown despite the relatively limited number of infections. It still has no crisis management plan owing to the inaction of the government itself, which has been responsible for health over the last decade.

In recent days, Calabria has also been brought to its knees economically and its infrastructures have been severely damaged by exceptionally bad weather conditions.

In view of this, will the Commission consider deploying solidarity funding for Italy also, with a view to providing assistance in Calabria and wherever else it may be needed?