

**Question for written answer E-003551/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Giorgos Georgiou (The Left)

Subject: Creation of a European Aerial Firefighting Base in Cyprus

The recent fires in Cyprus, in which large swathes of forest were burnt, homes were damaged and four people died, have laid bare the lack of adequate equipment and shown that the Department of Forestry is severely understaffed. This again confirmed the need for a European Aerial Firefighting Base in Cyprus, to be funded under rescEU, in the interests of both the Republic of Cyprus and other countries in the region.

However, not only is Cyprus not included in the EU's original map of countries in which fire-fighting bases are to be constructed, but it is also outside the areas to be covered by the bases, which will be located in the eastern Mediterranean.

In the light of the above:

Why is Cyprus the only Mediterranean country in the EU which has not been selected for a European Aerial Firefighting Base, even though it is included in the group of countries prone to fire?