

**Question for written answer E-003738/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Wildfires in Cyprus in July 2021

Deadly wildfires occurred in Cyprus on the weekend of 5-7 July 2021. A large number of houses were burnt, livestock farms, businesses and crops were destroyed, and four people died. A large area of forest and low vegetation (part of a protected natural area) was also burnt. The affected area measures over 60 square kilometres and includes eight municipalities in the Larnaca and Limassol districts. Despite the devastating consequences of the natural disaster, Cypriot citizens are ready to rebuild their region and make it more resilient and sustainable than before.

1. What kind of aid has the Commission provided to Cyprus or will it provide in the near future to address the consequences of the disaster and prevent future natural disasters, given the fact that the island is greatly affected by climate change?
2. Given that know-how, the sharing of experience and technical assistance are needed for the rehabilitation and recovery of the area hit by the disaster, what is the Commission doing to respond to this particular need?
3. How is the Commission, through its support, paying particular attention to the preservation of biodiversity and to the special features of Cyprus's social fabric?