

**Question for written answer E-003820/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Devastating flooding in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands

The devastating July floods in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands have wreaked a tragic toll, with hundreds dead or missing, entire areas submerged in mud, farms laid to waste, homes and property swept away and infrastructures destroyed.

The problem is that the requisite flood defence and civil protection measures are insufficiently profitable to be of any interest to private companies and are not 'eligible' for EU funding.

A further addition to the EU armoury, the 'RescEU' initiative, simply serves to perpetuate and legitimise the fact that state civil protection services have no clothes, facilitating massive cuts to disaster response funding by constantly transferring resources from one country to another.

In view of this:

1. What is the Commission's response to calls for a loosening of the strict EU Solidarity Fund terms and conditions, enabling families to be compensated promptly and effectively for resulting losses and damage to property, such as those sustained by hard-working farmers and the self-employed?
2. What view does it take of popular demands in each country for fully staffed, constantly manned and adequately equipped civil protection services, together with all necessary infrastructures to prevent loss of life through floods, fires and earthquakes, with the State assuming responsibility and providing the necessary funding?
3. How does it view the inadmissible fact that, when measured against its own criteria, such essential projects are judged to be 'ineligible' for EU funding in any shape or form?