

**Question for written answer E-003854/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Implementation of the EU's civil protection mechanism for the state of emergency in Greece caused by fires

On 22 February 2021, the Council reached a provisional agreement with Parliament on a proposal to strengthen the Union civil protection mechanism (UCPM).

The new rules for the UCPM provide for a budget of EUR 1.253 billion in total for the period 2021-2027, plus up to EUR 2.056 billion to implement civil protection measures addressing the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, available from the EU Recovery Instrument.

To supplement the UCPM, the EU has also established the 'rescEU reserve', a pan-European reserve providing additional capacity in the form of firefighting planes and helicopters, specialist medical supplies and equipment and other resources.

Right now the devastating fires in Greece have led to a state of emergency in the country. On the island of Evia alone, over 2 000 hectares of woods and more than 150 homes have been destroyed by fire. There are not enough people there to fight the fires and the outlook is not good.

1. How will the reinforced Union civil protection mechanism be activated for the fires currently burning in Greece?
2. What measures is the Commission taking in this regard?