

**Question for written answer E-003964/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Kostas Papadakis (NI), Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)**

Subject: Effectiveness of the RescEU mechanism in combating the devastating fires afflicting Greece

The recent devastating fires in Evia, Attica and the Peloponnese have claimed a number of human lives, left dozens injured, destroyed houses and consumed tens of thousands of hectares of forest.

Aside from a ground force team from Cyprus that arrived on 4 August, RescEU firefighters were not on the scene until four days to a week after the outbreak of the fires.

During the first few critical hours, the flames were being fought by the Greek ground and airborne fire services, which had been deliberately pared down following successive cuts.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission agree that the RescEU mechanism not only has proved itself to be ineffective but is actually harmful in so far as it is helping to perpetuate the massive problems arising from the insistence of the EU and Member States on treating forest fire fighting as a separate issue from forest protection and conservation in general?
2. Does it concur that the total failure of EU civil protection strategies and mechanisms to protect people and forests is being compounded by its dangerous 'green' ambitions to erect wind turbines in forests, mountains and even reafforested areas?
3. Does it share the view that emphasis on company profit margins and 'green business' in the EU and national governments is directly endangering lives and properties, while causing irreparable damage to the environment and valuable forests?