

**Question for written answer E-003016/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Devastation wreaked by fires in Attica

Devastating fires in Eastern Attica and Megara have incinerated and laid waste to homes, small businesses, vehicles and crops.

The understandable anger and indignation of local residents in the areas affected is now reaching boiling point in view of the problems that continue to face them as a result of uncleared forests, dried grasses, inadequate forest roads and woefully undermanned and underequipped forest firefighting teams.

Like its predecessors, the ND government is using the 'climate crisis' as a pretext for its criminal failure to come up with a comprehensive fire-prevention and protection plan.

Firefighting teams and equipment are simply being reassigned from one country to another under the 'EU Civil Protection Mechanism (rescEU)', regardless of any fires in their country of origin.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission agree on the need to register immediately the damage sustained in each case and provide unconditional compensation from the EU Solidarity Fund for those affected in Attica?
2. Does it agree that the 'EU Civil Protection Mechanism' is simply perpetuating shortages of firefighting manpower and resources in all countries by reassigning teams from one country to another instead of ensuring that forest firefighting and protection services are fully manned and properly equipped?
3. How does it view the fact that comprehensive fire protection planning and the provision of firefighting resources, which are the responsibility of the state, are treated as a 'cost', while the lion's share of resources under the Recovery and Resilience Fund is being channelled towards the corporations and used to shield their interests?