

**Question for written answer E-000538/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Mihai Tudose (S&D)

Subject: Stepping up European capacity to respond to natural disasters

The recent earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, with their tragic toll in terms of human life and the collapse of tens of thousands of buildings, have prompted the EU to react promptly and in solidarity through the Civil Protection Mechanism, accompanying individual initiatives by its Member States.

The Commission has presented a communication and a recommendation to the EU Member States regarding a more effective collective response to major disasters. The five objectives set out must, in my view, serve as the pillars of a broader coordinated EU disaster response drill: 1. Anticipation, starting with the identification of vulnerable locations; 2. Preparing the population to deal with critical situations; 3. Effective early warning (I consider 2030 to be a dangerously distant deadline). 4. Adequate response, in particular through the Civil Protection Mechanism, especially when a country is overwhelmed by the severity of the disaster; 5. Securing the functioning and coordination of civil protection systems, to deal with major disasters having cross-border and cross-sectoral impacts.

Unfortunately, we found only one vague reference to Europe's seismic vulnerability in the Commission communication. Does the European Commission consider it necessary for massive support to be provided as a matter of urgency to strengthen the resilience of Member States located in seismic risk areas - Romania, Greece and Italy - and thus prevent possible tragedies?

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