

**Question for written answer E-000611/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Fresh threat of drought and risk of a water emergency in Europe

According to data from the European Drought Observatory, several European regions are already under drought warnings.

So far in 2023, a 30 % water deficit has been recorded in Italy alone<sup>1</sup>, with watercourses reaching 'medium' levels of water shortage severity in three of the seven district basin authorities<sup>2</sup>, while water levels are below the halfway mark in the country's large lakes<sup>3</sup>.

Drought caused damage to agriculture totalling at least EUR 6 billion in 2022<sup>4</sup>, and this year the situation is likely to degenerate still further.

In September 2022, Parliament adopted a resolution on the consequences of the drought, and called on the Commission to take concrete action to avoid a new emergency.

In view of the above, can the Commission state:

1. What steps have been taken to develop a comprehensive EU-level climate risk assessment and to supplement the climate resilience stress test for key infrastructure, scheduled for the summer of 2023?
2. What stage has been reached in the assessment of the impact of the prolonged drought on EU food production in 2022?
3. When will it bring forward a comprehensive EU water strategy with a view to developing guidelines for the management of transnational shared water basins?

Submitted: 24.2.2023

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<sup>1</sup> Data source: Coldiretti

<sup>2</sup> Data source: ISPRA (the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research)

<sup>3</sup> Data source: Regional authorities in the large lakes area (*Enti regionali dei grandi laghi*)

<sup>4</sup> Data source: Coldiretti