

**Question for written answer E-000811/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Max Orville (Renew)

Subject: EU agencies taking account of the outermost regions in their work

On Monday 6 March 2023, the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) held an exchange of views with the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA). I saw this as an opportunity to draw the Executive Director's attention to the particular situation of the outermost regions, which because of their specific characteristics are especially vulnerable to climate change. To my astonishment, he replied that the EEA did very little for the outermost regions, as they were considered 'negative priorities'. He also pointed out that the European Commission had asked the agency to draw up this list of 'negative priorities'. This response shows that the outermost regions, and their 5 million EU citizens, are unacceptably being treated on an unequal footing, despite being fully-fledged EU territories and deserving to be treated as such.

1. Can the Commission justify this policy of 'negative priorities', and in particular it being applied to EU territories?
2. How does it ensure that the EU territories are not treated unequally in the work of the EU agencies, especially the outermost regions?

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