

**Question for written answer E-001116/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Susana Solís Pérez (Renew)

Subject: Fires in Asturias: prevention and measures to stop the reclassification of land and financial gains from setting fires

Forest fires are burning through Asturias. In under three days, the number of fires has increased sevenfold to 121. Some 400 people have been evacuated and, so far this year, over 8 000 hectares have been ravaged by fire. According to figures from the Ministry of Agriculture report entitled 'Los Incendios Forestales en España' (Forest Fires in Spain), human activity causes 86% of the fires, with the perpetrator being identified only in 17% of cases.

On 15 September, the European Parliament adopted a historic resolution on the protection of our forests. With the aim of preventing deliberate fires, that resolution calls for land affected by a fire not to be reclassified as non-forest land.

Member States are required to act in the public and environmental interest within their territory. Spain, however, does not have any effective forest conservation measures, which is hindering the prevention and eradication of fires.

Given Parliament's position, I would therefore ask the following questions:

1. Is the Commission investigating previous reclassifications of land following forest fires?
2. Given the above statistic, does the Commission believe that Spain has adequate safeguards in place to prevent financial gains from setting fires?

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