

**Question for written answer E-001572/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Damage caused by exceptional weather in Emilia Romagna

Emilia-Romagna has very recently been stricken by floods, which have affected the provinces of Bologna, Rimini, Ravenna and Forlì-Cesena, in particular.

There has been a great deal of damage, including the collapse of bridges and dwellings, caused by flooding of all of the rivers and smaller watercourses, as well as some artificial channels.

More than 5 000 people have been evacuated but evacuations in some areas are being hampered by power cuts, which are preventing the rescue services from communicating properly with the public.

In the Forlì area, at least five people have died and several are missing.

In view of this:

1. Will the Commission put in place a rapid procedure to support Italy, including possible activation of the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) through an increase in the corresponding European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)?
2. Will it exclude from the proposals to update the Stability and Growth Pact the funds earmarked for the prevention of natural disasters in regions that are vulnerable to hydrogeological events?

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