Question for written answer E-001573/2023 to the Commission

Rule 138

Elisabetta Gualmini (S&D)

Subject: Urgent need for EU response to the flooding in Emilia-Romagna and the increasing

number of natural disasters caused by hydrogeological instability

In the last two weeks, Emilia-Romagna has been hit by devastating floods that have left four people dead and forced more than 900 people from their homes. This natural disaster resulted from record rainfall in the region. In some areas, one third of the annual mean rainfall fell in just 48 hours.

The growing number of environmental disasters across Europe highlights the urgent need for the EU to make effective investments in prevention and assistance to the areas most exposed to hydrogeological instability.

In light of the flooding in Emilia-Romagna and the severe damage caused by natural disasters of this kind, can the Commission answer the following questions:

- 1. What measures are planned for further investment in the prevention of floods caused by hydrogeological instability?
- 2. Will the Commission advocate exempting disaster prevention investments from the calculation of the deficit for the purposes of the Stability and Growth Pact?
- 3. Will the Commission, as part of its immediate response to the damage caused by the floods in Emilia-Romagna, grant pre-financing for expenditure covered by the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) when the Italian Government requests this?

Submitted: 17.5.2023