

**Question for written answer E-001609/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Extreme weather emergency in Italy

Information provided by Italy's civil protection authorities shows that a number of Italian regions are on red alert for flooding and hydrogeological events. Weather phenomena have triggered a series of water-related and hydrogeological disasters – over 140 landslides have been reported in forty municipalities in the Apennines – as well as other weather-related disruption. The Regions of Emilia-Romagna and Marche have been hit the hardest. According to the Prefecture of Forlì-Cesena, a number of urban centres have been devastated by rivers bursting their banks, storm surges, landslides and mudslides. In addition, disruptions to rail and motorway networks have compromised normal transport links. The casualty figures are alarming, with many reported either dead or missing, and thousands forced to flee their homes.

These events have had major repercussions on fruit and vegetable farming – with entire crops being lost – and have caused at least EUR 1 billion's worth of damage overall. Events triggered by natural disasters also have economic repercussions at the European level: between 1980 and 2000, natural disasters such as flooding and inundation caused damage totalling EUR 487 million in the EU.

In view of the above, can the Commission say what action it will take to support the Italian citizens, local authorities and businesses that have been affected?

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