

**Question for written answer E-001743/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Sergio Berlato (ECR)

Subject: Call for the Commission to immediately activate the Solidarity Fund

Recently, a number of Italian regions have been hit by major calamities.

Emilia-Romagna has borne the brunt of the devastation: countless mudslides, landslides and floods have caused loss of life and laid waste to the region, inflicting tremendous damage on the ecosystem, economy and jobs.

In some areas, most transport links have been swept away, cutting off entire communities and obstructing many productive activities.

Many homes in mountainous and hilly areas are still standing but remain without power and communication lines, and have yet to receive essential services or feed supplies for livestock.

There is no denying that not only heavy rainfall is to blame for this devastation but also the poor upkeep of the areas affected and their waterways.

In view of this, will the Commission immediately activate the European Solidarity Fund, in order to deliver timely aid to those affected by the adverse weather, given that public response times will be crucial in preventing depopulation of these areas and multiple business closures?

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