

**Question for written answer E-001931/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Commission action to support agri-food chains in parts of Italy and Europe vulnerable to desertification

Europe is being hit by a growing number of natural disasters, one of the most serious being desertification, to which progressively larger areas in Europe are being exposed, especially in the Mediterranean.

Italy in particular is experiencing unprecedented – and increasingly regular – drought events. According to data provided by the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition's Research Institute, areas accounting for 28 % of the country are exhibiting telltale signs of extreme drought, and are therefore vulnerable to desertification.

In the light of the above:

1. How does the Commission intend to help Member States to combat desertification?
2. What financial instruments will it make available to support agri-food chains, particularly in Italy, that have suffered extreme in recent years?

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