

**Question for written answer E-002376/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Helmut Scholz (The Left)

Subject: Commission support for the fleet of firefighting planes in Lower Saxony and in Germany as a whole to combat forest fires

1. To what extent does the Commission plan to subsidise the firefighting planes currently stationed in Lower Saxony beyond the current funding period (until 30 October 2023)?
2. To what extent does the Commission plan to subsidise further firefighting planes in other locations in Germany, for example in the region of Brandenburg, which is heavily affected by forest fires?
3. What is the Commission's view of the argument that firefighting planes with a lower firefighting water tank capacity should also be used owing to widely differing local and regional conditions, and is the Commission taking steps to lower the current minimum of 3000 litres as a prerequisite for EU funding through rescEU in order to increase and broaden the firefighting reserve across the EU accordingly?

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