

**Question for written answer E-002584/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Alexis Georgoulis (NI)

Subject: Measures to deal with the consequences of the catastrophic wildfires and devastating floods in Greece

Catastrophic wildfires and devastating floods in Greece have hit many areas throughout most of the country. According to data from the National Observatory of Athens, the cumulative area that has been consumed by fire in Greece from the beginning of the year until 30 August 2023 has increased by 270% compared to the average area burnt in the country annually between 2002 and 2022. With a figure of 161 008 hectares of land consumed by fire, Greece ranks first among 20 Mediterranean countries. Of the total area that has been burnt in the country, 71% is forest land, 50% is inside the Natura 2000 network of protected regions and 73% has been caused by three 'mega-fires', which are those in Evros, where Dadia national park was consumed by fire, on Rhodes and in Dervenochoria. According to data from the European Copernicus service, the Dadia wildfire is the largest single wildfire ever recorded in the EU. The tragic consequences have included loss of life, destruction of forests and biodiversity and extensive losses to property.

In view of the recent vote by the European legislature on the restoration of nature:

How does the Commission plan to directly assist Greece to restore biodiversity and the damaged ecosystems, including operations such as regulating the air and water, soil health, pollination and the reduction of the risk of developing illnesses linked to the catastrophic wildfires?

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