

**Question for written answer E-002663/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Evros wildfires

For 17 days the Evros blaze spread uncontrollably.

Over 93 000 hectares of land were burned to a cinder and incalculable damage was caused to farmland, crops and homes. Since 2011, half the area of the National Park of Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli Forest has been lost.

In view of this:

1. What is the Commission's position regarding: the use of financial instruments such as the Solidarity Fund and the NSRF to provide relief to victims rather than for corporate profit as is currently the case; the swift and generous granting of aid; speedier actions to repair all damage caused to houses, stores, crops, livestock, agricultural and livestock facilities and machinery and to cars; additional staff and equipment for hospitals and health centres; emergency public health measures and emergency measures to restore all the networks and infrastructure of affected areas; and the planning and implementation of all required flood prevention works?
2. What is its position regarding the continued cuts to fire services across the EU, including the 4 500 posts that have been axed in Greece due to underfunding and the cost-benefit mentality adopted by governments and by the EU, which are depleting the meagre resources available and leaving human lives, property and the environment unprotected?
3. What does it have to say about the fact that, while it advocates restoring nature and protecting the environment based on the new nature restoration law, its policy is quite clearly causing destruction on such a scale – the Evros wildfires being an example of this – that according to scientists' calculations it will take at least 150-200 years for nature to be restored?

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