

**Question for written answer E-002922/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Petros Kokkalis** (The Left)

Subject: European strategy to address the consequences of wildfires

August's forest fire in Evros, the largest one recorded in the EU<sup>1</sup> this century, burned through more than 85 000 hectares, including a vast swathe of the National Park of Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli Forest which is of huge ecological value for Greece, Europe and the world as a whole. In total, more than 173 000 hectares<sup>2</sup> were burned in Greece in 2023, releasing eight million tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup><sup>3</sup> and adversely affecting the capture and storage of CO<sup>2</sup> by natural carbon sinks.

Bearing in mind the EU's 2030 targets of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% compared to 1990 levels<sup>4</sup> and increasing net carbon removals to 310 million tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup><sup>5</sup> equivalent, given that the frequency and intensity of the wildfires is expected to increase over the coming years, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it intend to propose binding measures to restore areas of burned forest in the EU, based also on the reforestation guidelines<sup>6</sup>?
2. Does it view wildfires and reforestation costs as a question of loss and damage or as a question of adaptation?
3. Does it consider that the available reforestation resources from EU funds and financial instruments are sufficient to tackle the increasingly frequent wildfires that are breaking out in Member States and does it plan to ask for a boost to these resources in view of the ongoing mid-term review of the MFF?

Submitted: 4.10.2023

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<sup>1</sup> [https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/news-stories/stories/helping-greece-tackle-largest-wildfires-century-europe\\_en](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/news-stories/stories/helping-greece-tackle-largest-wildfires-century-europe_en)

<sup>2</sup> <https://effis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/apps/effis.statistics/seasonaltrend/GRC/2023/CO2>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/1119

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) 2023/839

<sup>6</sup> SWD(2023) 61 final