

**Question for written answer E-000083/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Extreme drought measures in Catalonia affecting domestic consumption

Catalonia is suffering the worst period of drought since records began. Rainfall in 2023 was 30-50 % lower than the year-on-year average of the last three decades. Many municipalities are suffering water cuts for up to fourteen hours a day and their councils have had to pay to source alternative water resources.

The Catalan Government plans to reduce tap pressure for six million people or to bring in water by boat. Water bills will rise by 11.5 % and losses in the agricultural sector will be to the tune of EUR 700 million. Rural areas are particularly worried about this current drought, as rice production is expected to fall by more than 20 % compared to the last four years, and oil production by more than 12 000 tonnes.

In light of this:

1. What mechanisms does the Commission have at its disposal to counter the drought which is affecting rural areas in Catalonia and their crops?
2. What compensatory aid could Catalan businesses affected by the drought in rural areas be eligible for?
3. What measures does the Commission think the Catalan Government or the Spanish Government should adopt to compensate for the economic damage caused by the drought?

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