

**Question for written answer E-000581/2024  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE)**

Subject: Climate change and the threat to civilisation

Climate science looks into temperature changes, sea level rise, and the occurrence of extreme weather events but it does not study the stability and response of our civilisation to climate and ecological shocks.

Climate change could cause significant disruptions to ecosystems, society, and economies, potentially making large areas of the Earth uninhabitable. As civilisation cannot exist in uninhabitable places, climate change may cause civilisation collapse to a greater or lesser extent.

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Synthesis Report<sup>1</sup> clearly states that there is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all. The UN Emissions Gap Report 2023<sup>2</sup> states that the current trend would lead us to a temperature rise of nearly three degrees Celsius this century, which could make the world pass several tipping points.

1. What is the Commission doing to ensure that civilisation survives the climate and ecological shocks that are the result of climate change and biodiversity loss?
2. Is the Commission adequately preparing emergency plans for abrupt societal and natural crises caused by climate change?
3. Will the Commission ensure that sufficient resources are given to scientific studies that explore how resilient our civilisation will be to climate and ecological shocks?

Submitted: 21.2.2024

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<sup>1</sup> Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023: [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_SYR\\_LongerReport.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_LongerReport.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> UN Emissions Gap Report 2023: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/43922/EGR2023.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>.