

**Question for written answer E-000704/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: Support for Evros wildfire victims

According to Copernicus, the Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli-Alexandroupoli wildfire is the largest wildfire ever recorded in the EU.

Articles 107 and 122 of the TFEU provide for the possibility of adopting emergency measures in the event of natural disasters or exceptional occurrences.

For example, in 2021 the following amounts were paid out as disasters relief:

- Germany: EUR 612.6 million;
- Belgium: EUR 87.7 million;
- Netherlands: EUR 4.7 million;
- Luxembourg: EUR 1.8 million;
- Greece: EUR 1.4 million for the earthquake in Crete;
- Spain (La Palma): EUR 9.5 million;

In the case of flood-ridden Thessaly, answer E-003377/2023(ASW) to my corresponding parliamentary question pointed out that the Commission approved a scheme with a budget of EUR 80 million that will run until 31 December 2027. The aim of the scheme is to support farmers who suffered damage to their crop and livestock production or production equipment, including fixed assets. The support is in the form of direct grants of up to EUR 200 000 per beneficiary.

The absence of effective actions to address the multifaceted damage caused to agriculture, defence and social cohesion by the Evros wildfires needs to be rectified as quickly as possible.

It is also important to point out the relentless tax competition from Bulgaria and Türkiye.

Around 50 areas in Europe have been designated as free zones within the customs territory of the EU.

Article 21(4) of the Greek VAT Code (Law No 2589/2000) grants a VAT discount to Aegean islands affected by irregular immigration.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What are the estimated amounts of unused/untapped funding for Evros on a national and regional scale?
2. Can it adopt a more favourable tax scheme for agricultural businesses, even if it is for a limited time, with a view to speeding up local recovery as much as possible?

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