

**Question for oral answer O-000009/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 115

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on behalf of the S&D Group

Subject: Extreme weather conditions on Europe's Atlantic coast and on the island of Réunion

Since the end of December 2013, the French, Spanish, British, Portuguese and Irish Atlantic coasts have been affected by numerous occurrences of extreme weather conditions, causing widespread material and human damage. In Ireland, storm 'Christine' caused the most severe damage experienced by its southern and western coasts in the last fifty years. France's Brittany region has also been particularly badly affected by severe flooding. Moreover, cyclone Bejisa constituted the most serious meteorological phenomenon to have hit the island of Réunion in the last twenty years. Faced with the widespread damage caused recently to its metropolitan and overseas territories by these severe weather conditions, the French Government quickly recognised the situation as a natural disaster.

1. What financial, technical and human assistance can the European Union provide to support the stricken populations?
2. Does the Commission think that these disaster-affected areas may be eligible for support under the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF)?
3. Will the reform of Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 establishing the EUSF currently under discussion in Parliament and in the Council make it possible to respond more effectively to these kinds of disasters, even though the budget envisaged for the EUSF for the period 2014-2020 is set to be reduced by half compared with the current period?
4. In the framework of the negotiations on the partnership agreements for the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020, is the Commission encouraging the Member States to adopt and implement strategies for the prevention/management of risks and the rehabilitation of disaster areas?
5. What specific tools does the Commission intend to establish in response to the recent outbreak of extreme climatic phenomena in the outermost regions, in particular in the tropics?

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Deadline for reply: 24.1.2014