

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4257/07
by Nikolaos Sifunakis (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Devastation wreaked by fires in Greece

The devastation wreaked by forest fires in Greece this summer has assumed the proportions of a national tragedy, having claimed over 60 human lives over the past five days alone, leaving thousands homeless and obliterating or seriously ravaging on over 100 villages.

Irreversible fire damage has also been caused to Greece's cultural heritage, including monasteries and churches which are centuries old, some of them having been totally laid to waste, culminating in the destruction of parts of the area containing the archaeological site of Ancient Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic Games.

Can the Commission provide the following information?

1. What immediate measures can be taken with Community funding to make good the damage and compensate victims?
2. How does the Commission intend to contribute to disaster management through the European Union's Solidarity Fund? What level of aid does it intend to make available from this fund?
3. What other sources of Community funding can be used to offset damage, in particular the destruction of historic monuments?
4. What other measures can be taken, particularly in respect of conservation areas forming part of the Natura 2000 network which have sustained fire damage?