

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2358/09  
by Armando França (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Forest fires

Given the numerous forest fires in Europe, especially in its southern regions, and their severe economic and ecological consequences, it is essential to employ methods serving to gauge the fire risk and marshal the available prevention and fire-fighting resources. Forest fires thus pose wide-ranging safety problems. Bringing every possible tool to bear is not only vital, but also particularly valuable in a number of respects in that it would enable the meteorological phenomenon to be characterised more accurately and make for more effective planning, prevention, coordination, and fire-fighting. Europe's southern regions, Portugal included, are devastated by forest fires every year. What kind of policy does the EC have to prevent this scourge and pool the resources needed to tackle it? Is it ready to respond to the appeals for help that Member States are likely to make during the summer?