

**Priority question for written answer P-002683/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Forest fires in the Chernobyl region

Since the beginning of April, fierce forest fires have been burning in the exclusion zone around the former nuclear power station at Chernobyl. As a result, higher than normal radiation values have already been recorded at the locations of the fires. Radioactive dust particles could potentially be carried to other regions on the wind. According to Ukrainian government reports, radiation levels have remained within safe levels. Despite that fact, local environmental organisations have expressed concern.

Recent events show how important it is to have sufficient information, and accurate information, from the start of a crisis. Only in that way can the European Union and its Member States make reliable analyses and if necessary take appropriate measures.

1. Is the Commission in contact with the local authorities about the potential rise in radiation levels?
2. Can the Commission check how accurate this data is?
3. What protocols exist at European level to facilitate swift collection and exchange of data concerning potential nuclear disasters in third countries and verify its reliability?