

**Priority question for written answer P-004549/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Disastrous flooding in Evia

Floods have claimed eight lives and left a wake of destruction in villages forming part of Messapia and Lilandia on the embattled island of Evia.

This has yet again brought to light the criminal negligence displayed by the New Democracy government and its predecessors, as well as by the local authorities, which have systematically failed to protect the area against the risks of fire and flooding. The EU also bears a heavy responsibility for its obsession with 'value of money' and its unacceptable policy of putting business interests first when it comes to establishing infrastructure funding criteria. Disastrously inadequate flood protection cannot be offset by programmes such as rescEU, which merely serve to perpetuate the shortcomings of existing civil defence and emergency response mechanisms.

In view of this:

Can the Commission say what action it will take to directly assist and compensate those affected, provide the necessary flood defences and remove the prohibitive obstacles and restrictions preventing the immediate deployment of EU solidarity and recovery funding, bypassing cumbersome bureaucracy so as to:

1. ensure unconditional compensation for all damage to homes, equipment, appliances, businesses, crops, plants and livestock;
2. provide immediate financial assistance to all victims in order to meet their urgent basic needs;
3. implement a comprehensive flood protection plan with all necessary projects being launched immediately?