

**Priority question for written answer P-005971/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Full and immediate compensation for earthquake victims in Samos

On 30 October 2020, a massive earthquake occurred in the sea area north of Samos, resulting in casualties and major damage to homes and businesses. The earthquake also struck the coast of Turkey, claiming dozens of lives and leaving hundreds injured.

The damage caused by the earthquake highlights the lack of planning and of earthquake monitoring and defence systems on Samos and other Greek islands and in Greece as a whole. It is urgently necessary to provide full and immediate compensation for all victims.

Projects to protect people's lives and property from disasters such as earthquakes, floods and fires are clearly not a priority for successive Greek governments or for the EU since, in cost-benefit terms, they do not generate the necessary returns. This is despite the heavy toll taken by such disasters almost every year in Greece in terms of loss of life and damage to property.

Given the need to ensure the immediate protection of human life and provide relief for earthquake victims in Samos:

1. Will the Commission ease the strict criteria imposed by the Decision on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund, in order to provide full compensation for damage sustained by working-class homes, the self-employed, and other earthquake victims, to restore roads and other public infrastructures and to repair the damage to monuments and sites of archaeological and cultural interest?
2. What is its position regarding calls for immediate earthquake preparation, protection and safety measures?