

**Priority question for written answer P-003461/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Cyprus in flames... Need for immediate activation of the Solidarity Fund

Cyprus is currently in the midst of an unspeakable tragedy. A deadly fire in the mountains between Limassol and Larnaca from 4 to 6 July 2021 has resulted in the death of four workers and has caused tremendous damage to private property and forest land.

The fire was brought under control on the morning of 6 July 2021 after destroying approximately 55 square kilometres of forest/agricultural land.

Not only has the fire caused loss of life but, according to the EU Satellite Mapping Service, some 3 134 hectares have gone up in flames and 347 residential buildings have been destroyed, along with 2 366 hectares of forest and 2 482 hectares of agricultural land.

The European Solidarity Fund must be activated immediately to help repair the extensive damage and support the victims, as it has done in similar instances in the past.

In the light of the above:

1. How will the Commission immediately activate and mobilise the Solidarity Fund to provide immediate assistance to the Republic of Cyprus in response to this natural disaster?
2. Given how quickly the fire spread and the inability to provide assistance in a timely manner, despite the activation of RescEU, how does the Commission intend to help Cyprus acquire the resources necessary to prevent similar disasters from occurring in the future?