

**Priority question for written answer P-003995/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Devastating fires and immediate need for full compensation of victims

A number of devastating fires have taken place throughout Greece, particularly in the north-east of Attica, northern and central Evia and Achaia. Two people have been killed and many injured, burned and suffering lung damage from smoke-filled air. Thousands have been left homeless, unemployed and in immediate need of food, water, shelter and full compensation for their losses without delay.

However, the EU and the national governments have rejected as too costly the introduction of comprehensive natural disaster prevention, management and response procedures in each country designed to minimise damage and loss. On the contrary, any additional assistance from other countries is rendered ineffective by completely inadequate basic planning.

In the light of this:

1. What view does the Commission take of urgent calls for immediate, full and unconditional compensation covering 100% of damage sustained without exception, accompanied by immediate and comprehensive aid by way of food and shelter, full tax exemptions, repayments on bank loans, etc. and deployment of the Solidarity Fund to fully compensate fire victims, without such aid being undermined by unacceptable terms and conditions?
2. Can it explain why it has signed off on all budgets submitted by successive Greek governments since 2009 that cut appropriations earmarked for firefighting services by over EUR 2 billion, while out of the EUR 17.7 million requested this year by the forest authorities for fire prevention, only EUR 1.7 million has been allocated by the ND government?