

**Priority question for written answer P-001460/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Alessandra Basso (ID)

Subject: Damage caused by exceptional weather in Emilia Romagna

In recent days, as a result of the floods affecting the provinces of Modena, Ferrara, Ravenna, Forlì and Bologna, significant damage has been caused by the flooding of the rivers Rhine, Savena, Idice, Lamone and other smaller rivers, and the flooding of some artificial channels as well as landslides in mountainous and hilly areas. Hundreds of people have been evacuated because their homes have been flooded and thousands of hectares of valuable crops have been destroyed, exacerbating an already serious economic crisis brought about by high energy costs.

At the same time, mountain areas are under severe strain in terms of their hydrogeological balance, suffering from landslides and mudslides.

In view of the above:

1. Will the Commission put in place a rapid procedure to support Italy, including possible activation of the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) through an increase in the ERDF?
2. Will it exclude from the proposals to update the Stability and Growth Pact the funds earmarked for the prevention of natural disasters in regions that are vulnerable to hydrogeological events?

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