

**Priority question for written answer P-002140/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Lídia Pereira (PPE), **Paulo Rangel** (PPE), **José Manuel Fernandes** (PPE), **Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar** (PPE), **Maria da Graça Carvalho** (PPE)

Subject: Nature Restoration Law increases risk of forest fires

Europe is hit by forest fires every year, and the situation is made worse by climate-driven drought.

Article 10(2) of the draft Nature Restoration Law states that: 'Member States shall achieve an increasing trend at national level' in a number of indicators, such as standing deadwood and lying deadwood.

In 2018, the Portuguese Government committed to 'do anything' to prevent further tragedies like the 2017 fires in Portugal that killed more than 100 people.

To this end, it passed Decree-Law No 10/2018 of 14 February 2018, which establishes that 'no flammable substances, such as firewood, timber or logging or farming waste, or other highly flammable substances, shall be allowed to accumulate.'

In view of these two contradictory positions:

1. Was a fire risk impact study carried out when the proposal was drawn up?
2. Were researchers, fire brigades or civil protection authorities consulted? If so, what opinions did they give on this matter?
3. Is the Commission willing to assume responsibility for the consequences of its proposed solution?

Submitted: 5.7.2023