

**Priority question for written answer P-002209/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Isabel García Muñoz (S&D)

Subject: Floods in Zaragoza and European measures to adapt to climate change

On 6 July, devastating storms caused severe flooding in Zaragoza and other municipalities, such as Cuarte de Huerva and El Burgo de Ebro, which left several people injured and caused huge material damage which is still to be quantified. Huge losses are expected in the most affected areas, with agriculture and livestock bearing the brunt, and serious damage has been caused to infrastructure and business parks.

The EU's Civil Protection Mechanism and the Solidarity Fund, set up 20 years ago, have been a European success story, but they have fallen short in the face of extreme weather events such as the torrential rains, prolonged droughts and heat waves that have hit regions in Europe in recent years. Cohesion policy can also play a key role in preventing the socio-economic imbalances we are experiencing as a result of climate change in Europe.

I would therefore ask the Commission:

1. What importance will be given to adaptation to climate change in the next multiannual financial framework?
2. Does the Commission intend to bolster the Solidarity Fund and the Emergency Aid Reserve in order to address the climate emergency?
3. Does the Commission envisage proposing more funds for climate change prevention and adaptation when it next reviews cohesion policy?

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