

**Question for written answer E-001770/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Drought in Portugal

The drought in Portugal grew worse in April 2023: 89 % of the mainland was in drought, with 34 % suffering from severe and extreme drought, according to the Portuguese Institute of the Sea and the Atmosphere. April 2023 was the third-driest month since 1931; it has not rained since the turn of the year in some regions.

The drought is putting further pressure on already expensive factors of production. There is a lack of grazing land and winter grain production is low. Farmers are selling their livestock because they can no longer feed them. They are leaving the sector, which is increasing depopulation of the hinterland and raising the risk of wildfires.

In the light of some other Member States' ambitious measures to mitigate droughts' impact, can the Commission say:

1. How well-suited are the Portuguese Government's measures for this serious state of affairs? Are they in line with the Commission's policy requirements regarding people moving away from the area, leaving the sector and reducing the risk of wildfires?
2. Will recovery and resilience plan funds be deployed for the efficient management and use of water resources by, for example, boosting storage capacity?
3. What other steps does the Commission believe the Portuguese Government should take to combat drought?

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