

**Question for written answer E-001295/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Fire protection and firefighting resources

Civil protection must fulfil the task of responding to wildfires, floods, earthquakes and major industrial and technological accidents with a view to protecting lives and the health of the population, while still facing huge problems and major shortages. This year's fire season finds our country in exactly the same situation it found itself in last year, in other words, with a shortage of 4 000 firefighters, with staff being moved around to fill gaps, a tottering forest administration, just 500 foresters when 1 500 more are needed, and no forestry workers.

In view of this:

1. What does the Commission have to say about the fact that rescEU legitimises and perpetuates staff shortages in all Member States while its wholly insufficient fleet is recycled between countries and is usually deployed too late or when a wildfire has already spread uncontrollably?
2. What does it have to say about the fact that the policy of the EU and of the Greek Government involves devolving ever greater responsibility to volunteer firemen and NGOs, which essentially translates into individual responsibility, rather than providing for permanent staff who are guaranteed full rights in every Member State, full labour rights and paid overtime?
3. What does it have to say about the fact that the EU refuses to compensate victims of natural disasters because under the conditions of the Recovery and Resilience Facility private losses do not qualify for aid whereas 'green' investments for business groups – including in burnt areas or Natura 2000 sites – are considered fully 'eligible' and receive generous funding and fast-track authorisation?

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