

**FORM FOR TABLING A MAJOR INTERPELLATION
FOR WRITTEN ANSWER WITH DEBATE (Rule 130b)**

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SUBJECT: Fires in the European Union this summer
(please specify)

TEXT:

During the beginning of the summer 2017 the EU has already suffered devastating fires, especially in Italy, Portugal, Croatia, France, Spain and Greece, which caused deaths and large-scale material damage.

Member States, in particular the Cohesion Fund beneficiaries, often find it difficult to tackle fires on such a scale by themselves, which means they need Community solidarity and assistance.

Moreover, as highlighted in the ECA report published on 24 February 2015, the EU funding for preventing forest fires and restoring forests damaged by natural disasters and fire is not sufficiently well-managed.

There is no specific European legislation to tackle fires and drought.

Therefore, does the Commission intend to:

- mobilise the EUSF and apply it flexibly in order to tackle the serious damage caused by fires?
- launch European intervention mechanisms by creating the appropriate legal and budgetary instruments, in particular via a Community body for the protection of forests?
- submit specific proposals for directives to combat fires and drought in the EU, such as agricultural aids for the establishment and maintenance of firebreaks, in order to achieve better coordination of the Member States' policies on the subject and to make the best use of the Community instruments available?

Signature(s):

Date: 19/07/2017