

**Question for written answer P-002947/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Paulo Rangel (PPE), Lídia Pereira (PPE), José Manuel Fernandes (PPE), Álvaro Amaro (PPE),
Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar (PPE) and Maria Da Graça Carvalho (PPE)**

Subject: Absence of Portugal from RescEU

In the 2017 debate on the State of the Union, following the terrible fires in Portugal in June but before the October ones, Paulo Rangel MEP urged President Juncker to create a proper European civil protection mechanism.

Therefore, as Commissioner Stylianides will be aware, in Parliament, Portugal was part of the process from the outset, through Mr Rangel's speech and, in the final budget discussions, through José Manuel Fernandes, both of whom are from the Portuguese Social Democratic Party (PSD), a member of the European People's Party (EPP).

We were shocked to read in the press today that Portugal would not be included in the RescEU 'transition phase' although it is obvious that Portugal's prevention and response capacity is weak and inadequate.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission confirm that Portugal is not participating in the 'transition phase' and, if it is the case that it is not, what arguments led the Portuguese Government not to take part?
2. To what extent would Portugal be harmed in the use of existing means by not participating in the transition phase?
3. What view does the Commission take of the absence from this mechanism of a country that is in one of the weakest positions owing to its lack of means to tackle fires?