

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0072/09

pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure

by Nikolaos Vakalis, Ioannis Varvitsiotis, Ioannis Gklavakis, Emmanouil Angelakas, Vasco Graça Moura, Panayiotis Demetriou, Yiannakis Matsis, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Georgios Papastamkos, Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Margaritis Schinas, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, Luis de Grandes Pascual, Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos, Silvia-Adriana Țicău, Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă, Victor Boștinaru, Jan Březina, Adamos Adamou, Stefano Zappalà, Marios Matsakis, Rareș-Lucian Niculescu, Pia Elda Locatelli, Paulo Casaca, Anders Wijkman, Sérgio Marques, Carlos Coelho, Manolis Mavrommatis, João de Deus Pinheiro, Fiona Hall, Gabriela Crețu, Rovana Plumb, Nicolae Vlad Popa, Dragoș Florin David, Patrizia Toia, Stavros Arnautakis, Maria Matsouka, Stavros Lambrinidis, Costas Botopoulos, Anni Podimata, Gianni Pittella, Katerina Batzeli, Evangelia Tzampazi, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Juan Andrés Naranjo Escobar, Giovanni Robusti, Mario Borghezio, Maria Eleni Koppa and Ioannis Kasoulides

to the Commission

Subject: EU policy on earthquakes: actions taken by the Commission in the wake of the recent catastrophic earthquake in Italy

On 14 November 2007 the European Parliament adopted Resolution (P6_TA(2007)0507) on an integrated approach to earthquakes by the EU (prevention, response and repairing damage). This Resolution, which is the first text by a European institution devoted especially and exclusively to the phenomenon of earthquakes, called for the adoption of specific measures as regards a policy for protection, reinforcing buildings (with special emphasis on buildings of historic and cultural significance), funding, research, public information, etc.

1. Given that earthquakes are a complex natural phenomenon involving many parameters and aspects which must be taken into account if they are to be managed effectively (in particular environmental, building, entrepreneurial, local, regional and educational aspects and the need for international cooperation), does the Commission believe, especially following the recent deadly earthquake in Italy, that this natural disaster has a European – and not merely a regional or national – dimension, and that it is therefore necessary to publish a communication especially and exclusively devoted to effective earthquake management?
2. More generally, what action has the Commission taken so far in response to the above Resolution?
3. Which initiatives does it intend to take in future to implement the Resolution's proposals on effective earthquake management?
4. Which anti-seismic protection actions are co-funded by the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund?
5. Does the Commission believe that the recent communication 'A Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters' (COM(2009)0082) matches the seriousness of the problem?
6. Finally, did it react immediately to the recent deadly earthquake in Italy, and, if so, how? Was the EU natural disaster response mechanism activated? Has it launched EU rehabilitation measures at political and economic level?

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Deadline for reply: 24.04.2009