

**Question for written answer E-015748/2015/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: European Solidarity Funds for flooding in Ireland

In the context of the devastating floods across Ireland as a result of Storm Desmond, Article 2 of the European Solidarity Fund Regulation provides that a threshold shall be applied to the average GDP of those NUTS II regions affected. Can the Commission outline how the European Solidarity Fund could be used in the Border Midlands West Region of Ireland to ease distress?

Further, can two regions (either from the same jurisdiction or from two separate jurisdictions, i.e. cross-border) make a joint application for European Solidarity Funds?

Finally, given the 2013 recommendation of the Committee of the Regions for the inclusion of NUTS III regions, why were NUTS III regions left out of the 2014 review?