



**Izaskun Bilbao Barandica**

Vice-presidenta del grupo ALDE  
Eurodiputada (EAJ-PNV)

**ANTONIO TAJANI**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

**Brussels 17.10.207**

Dear President Tajani,

This past weekend has seen a real tragedy in Galicia. Two people have lost their lives, thousands of hectares of woodland and trees have burned down and tens of thousands of people have been directly affected by the consequences of more than 100 fires which broke out almost simultaneously, apparently as a result of arson.

Given that the problem of forest fires also affects the centre and north of Portugal and, to a lesser extent, the region of Asturias, and in view of the scale of the damage caused, I ask you respectfully to say a few words about the people and regions affected at the beginning of our next plenary session.

We believe that scale of the tragedy and the impact of these fires on the population and their living conditions and the potential effects of this tragedy on the stability of the region are sufficient grounds for the activation in this part of Spain of the European Solidarity Fund to palliate the effects of natural disasters, as regulated by Regulation 2012/2002, recently upgraded in the meeting of the Council on 26 June last.

I would therefore like to encourage you to show the same leadership that you have deployed in other similar disasters to bring about firm, joint action by all European institutions in regard to forest fires. Your address at the forthcoming meeting of the Council on 19-20 October, i.e. this week, would be a good occasion. Perhaps the agenda could incorporate some time for reflection concerning this problem. Measures such as prevention, the incorporation of reforestation into the priorities of the European Solidarity Corps and a strengthening of controls on the sale of wood could all help to provide the response that is needed by those European citizens who are directly affected by this disaster.

I remain

Yours sincerely,



Izaskun Bilbao Barandica