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Subject: Flooding in Valencia: thank you for your solidarity

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To: MEPs&ASSISTANTS-10th-Legislature MEPs&ASSISTANTS-10th-Legislature@europarl.europa.eu

Dear colleagues

I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your solidarity and interest in the catastrophic events caused by the Isolated Depression at High Levels (DANA, in Spanish) that recently struck our country, and Valencia in particular. The support and sympathy we have received from all corners of Europe during this difficult time is invaluable.

The DANA has caused the greatest natural disaster in the recent history of Spain, and probably of Europe. The magnitude of this tragedy has left us in deep mourning. The DANA phenomenon, characterized by intense rainfall and severe weather conditions, has wreaked havoc across the Valencia region, causing unprecedented flooding and damage and resulting in tragic loss of life and significant disruption to daily life and infrastructure.

The impact area is devastated. Hundreds of people are still searching for their loved ones and hundreds of families are mourning the loss of a family member, friend or neighbour. Thousands of homes have been damaged, and essential services have been disrupted. Local businesses have suffered extensive damage, and the economic impact will be felt for years to come. The road to recovery will be long and difficult.

In response to this crisis, the Government of Spain, the regional Government of the Comunitat Valenciana, local governments and other institutions are working closely together to coordinate relief efforts. Emergency services have been deployed, including rescue teams, medical assistance and logistical support, to ensure that those affected get the help they need as quickly as possible. The Government of Spain has deployed 10.000 troops and police - the country's largest peacetime deployment - and will continue to mobilize all necessary resources for as long as it takes to support the people in this tragic situation. The solidarity and mobilization of neighbours has been impressive.

In these moments of desolation, it is important to have the utmost empathy with those affected, to continue working to guarantee calm, and ensuring that solidarity is the main message of this catastrophe, not the self-interested hatred and misinformation spread by some people.

Unfortunately, this disaster is a stark reminder of the urgent need to continue our efforts to combat climate change. It underscores the importance of reducing emissions, building resilience in our communities, understanding climate patterns, and strengthening our early warning systems and culture of protection. At the same time, it shows the need to strengthen our preparedness, response and resilience in the face of the new wave of natural disasters, fires and epidemic outbreaks.

We must work together to ensure that we are better prepared for future challenges, and to live up to the solidarity we have received.

Thank you again for your support and attention to this tragedy. Together, we can build a more resilient and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Javier Moreno Sánchez
Head of the Spanish Delegation of the S&D Group