

**Question for written answer E-009103/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)

Subject: Environmental impact of the Syrian refugee crisis in Lebanon

On 9 November 2014, the Lebanese periodical the *Daily Star* reported that according to Lebanon's Minister for the Environment Mohamad Machnouk, the country is facing an 'environmental emergency' which is being exacerbated by the presence of over one million Syrian refugees. According to Mr Machnouk, all of Lebanon's 18 rivers are discharging polluted water into the Mediterranean Sea, while it is estimated that there are as many as 762 refuse dumps scattered across the country. Lebanon is also experiencing deforestation. In the words of Mr Machnouk: 'We are really living in an environmental catastrophe on the levels of solid waste, air and water pollution and sanitation, among others'.

1. In light of the serious environmental situation in Lebanon, what assistance is the EU prepared to offer to improve sanitation and waste management in the country?
2. What steps is the Commission taking to support environmental sustainability in Middle Eastern states such as Jordan and Lebanon, which are bearing the brunt of the Syrian and Iraqi refugee crises?