

**Question for written answer E-009275/2014/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Abandonment of work to decontaminate the urban site of El Hondón (Cartagena)

In Cartagena there is an area of approximately 100 hectares of highly contaminated land called 'El Hondón', which was converted into development land under amendment No 114 of the Plan General Municipal de Ordenación (general municipal management plan). Several environmental impact studies (conducted by EMGRISA in 1998, by LQM Gestión Ambiental, S.L. in 2002 and by the Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear [nuclear safety council] in 2008) have concluded that the land is contaminated with naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) and heavy metals including cadmium, mercury, arsenic, lead and asbestos.

According to technical scientific reports drawn up by the WHO, cancer-research bodies and the Instituto de Salud Carlos III, these wastes have a negative biological impact on epidemics and health, leading to an increase in cancers, sterility and birth defects.

Twenty years after industrial activity ceased on the site, the decontamination plan – which even received ERDF funding – has come to a halt, in breach of Spanish Law 22/2011 on wastes and contaminated land and Royal Decree 783/2001 on health protection against ionising radiation.

1. Is this situation consistent with the 'polluter pays principle' laid down in Directive 2004/35/EC and in Framework Directive 2008/98/EC on waste?
2. What action is the Commission going to take if there has indeed been a breach of the law? Are there any EU funds available for this type of situation?