

**Question for written answer E-010493/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)

Subject: Research on aerosols and climate change

Aerosols are fine particles that are present in the atmosphere. They have both natural origins, such as volcanic eruptions and dust storms, and man-made origins, such as exhaust fumes, industrial emissions and biomass burning.

Researchers believe that aerosols produced as a result of human activity help to mitigate the effects of greenhouse gases, as well as playing a significant part in influencing winds and ocean currents, since they alter the distribution of solar energy that reaches the Earth's surface.

If aerosol emissions fall in the coming decades, this could have the effect of speeding up climate warming, given that aerosols cause a drop in temperatures.

Future research into the way in which aerosols influence the climate and rainfall patterns will need to determine the precise long-term effects in terms of climate change.

How might the Commission support the work being done in this field so that the results of this research can be used to combat climate change, an area where the EU has played and is continuing to play a leading role?