

**Question for written answer E-011116/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Commission Work Programme and air quality Directive

The European Commission announced its Work Programme for 2015 in Strasbourg this week. This programme represents a substantial cutback in the level of environmental protection, namely due to the formal withdrawal or uncertain future of various important legislative packages.

The air quality Directive represents one of the legislative packages that the Commission is intending to drop. This legislative initiative was submitted in 2013, at a time of peak pollution in terms of fine particles. The Commission had estimated the legislation could prevent 58 000 premature deaths per year, with benefits for public health estimated at between 40 and 140 billion euros, not to mention the creation of 100 000 new jobs through increases in productivity and the use of new, cleaner technologies.

Around 400 000 Europeans die prematurely every year due to air pollution, with external costs in the region of 330 to 940 billion euros per year.

What is the Commission's assessment of these elements, and is it prepared to reconsider the inclusion of this directive?