

**Question for written answer E-009053/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Review of the draft regulation for coal-fired power plants

According to a recent study by environmental economist Mike Holland, the EU's draft power plant pollution regulation could lead to 71 000 avoidable deaths in 2020-2030.

The Member States will likely be affected by premature deaths in the decade after 2020 owing to two relevant weaknesses identified in a recent analysis of the draft Best Available Techniques Reference Document (BREF), which will likely be adopted in early 2016.

Firstly, the air emission standards currently proposed do not require the adoption of the latest, most effective techniques. Secondly, air pollution standards set by the regulation are so weak that many coal-fired power plants have already capped emissions at levels well below the BREF limits, and this could result in rules that are less stringent than those that have already been introduced, and are now being enforced, in China, Japan and the United States.

Emissions limits for nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) – which contribute to dangerous air pollution from coal burning – for China's new power plants are more than half of what the EU is putting forward.

Considering the statistics mentioned, would the European Union provide appropriate modifications to the proposed new environmental regulation for coal-fired power plants?