

**Question for written answer E-009875/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Thallium concentrations in drinking-water

Thallium is a highly toxic chemical element that used to be used in rat-poison and insecticides.

On 11 September last year geologists at the University of Pisa (CNR – Italian National Research Council) reported a high thallium concentration in the water system at Valdicastello, in Pietrasanta (Lucca province). The concentrations measured in the samples taken ranged from 1.77 µg/l to 10.1 µg/l. The American EPA – the only official body to have warned that thallium, a heavy metal, is a dangerous contaminant of drinking-water – has set a maximum contaminant level of 2 µg/l.

Annex I to Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption, which lays down permitted levels for noxious substances, does not include thallium.

However, Article 4(1)(a) of the directive stipulates that water intended for human consumption is to be considered wholesome and clean if it is free of substances whose numbers and concentrations are such as to constitute a potential danger to human health.

- Is the Commission aware of the infringement of the directive and of the fact that, left uncontrolled, thallium in drinking-water is a danger to human health?
- Does it not believe that thallium should be added without delay to Annex I of Directive 98/83/EC so as to ensure compliance with the objective of protecting human health, as laid down in Article 191 TFEU?