

**Question for written answer E-010227/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Marco Affronte (EFDD), Piernicola Pedicini (EFDD), Eleonora Evi (EFDD), Fabio Massimo Castaldo (EFDD) and Dario Tamburrano (EFDD)

Subject: Presence of heavy metals in the urine of Milazzo residents

In 2013 the Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine of the University of Messina carried out clinical research on 200 teenagers living in the area of Milazzo and Valle del Mela. This biological monitoring brought to light the presence of certain heavy metals in their urine (cadmium, chromium, nickel, mercury) which are highly toxic to human health and have been classed as endocrine disrupters by the World Health Organisation.

The whole area is classified as being 'at high risk of environmental crisis' due to the presence of a refinery (where on the night of 26 September 2014 a devastating fire broke out in a fuel storage facility). Furthermore, 80 % of the population of Valle del Mela is suffering from very severe diseases such as cancer, ailments of the urinary, digestive and hormonal system, delayed onset of puberty and damage to DNA, undoubtedly linked to continuous overexposure to toxic agents.

In view of the above, can the Commission specify the following:

- How does it intend to act in relation to an area with such high rates of disease, which place the very life of residents of the area at constant risk?
- What measures does it intend to take to offset the striking level of industrial pollution and the consequent environmental disaster caused by the refinery?