

**Question for written answer E-010647/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Plants posing a major-accident hazard

In the wake of the Seveso disaster, which occurred in Italy on 10 July 1976, the European Commission launched a legislative procedure in an attempt to resolve the issue of plants posing a major-accident hazard (MAH).

The third edition of the Seveso Directive (Directive 2012/18/EU) was published by the European Union in 2012. Member States were required, in Article 31 of that very directive, to bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative procedures necessary to comply therewith by 31 May 2015 – in Italy, however, implementing legislation has found itself deadlocked before the Italian Environment Committee.

The above directive also obliges the competent authorities in each Member State to ensure that all operators draft a major-accident prevention policy, or MAPP, incorporating a technical evaluation of risks and potential damage. Not all Member States of the European Union, however, are able to draw upon the necessary skills and equipment to satisfy this request – creating potentially dangerous situations.

Article 24 of the Seveso Directive also envisages the possibility of the Commission developing guidance on safety distance and domino effects.

In light of the fact that the evaluation of the risks and potential damage is carried out by local, public or private operators, does the Commission deem it appropriate to apply Article 24, thereby contributing to the harmonisation of this evaluation on a European scale with the ultimate aim of preventing further disasters?