

**Question for written answer E-012365/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: Cost of pollution

In February 2015, following a series of pollution spikes, the French Senate set up a committee to determine the exact cost of air pollution. The verdict, published at the end of July, leaves no room for dispute: pollution is an economic disaster which costs EUR 100 billion a year. Experts reached this figure by taking into account illnesses associated with poor air quality, the hospitalisation costs involved, sick pay and loss of productivity for businesses. In addition to health risks, the report emphasises the impact on soil quality and crop yields, which are lower than could be expected from a healthy environment. Senators also noted the consequences of air pollution for buildings. Renovating blackened façades to preserve the splendour of Paris comes at a high price: restoring the Pantheon alone cost EUR 900 000. If the health protection argument fails to convince, the document also includes a substantial list of specific examples justifying prompt and effective action.

1. Can the Commission confirm the existence of this report?
2. Does it intend to propose an action plan in the coming months in an effort to bring about drastic reductions in air pollution in Europe at long last?