

**Question for written answer E-003381/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Mercury pollution from power station emissions

Mercury pollution is a global environmental problem that has serious consequences for human health. Coal-fired power stations are one of the main sources of anthropogenic mercury emissions. Recent studies carried out in Spanish power stations with more than 1 000 MW installed capacity found that levels of soil contamination in areas within a 15 km radius around these plants are higher than those recorded by the European Environment Agency's European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR). These figures place a question mark against the procedures for reporting and verifying emissions.

Given that mercury exposure poses a threat to human health and wildlife, mercury emissions from power stations provide a further argument in favour of abandoning this means of generating energy.

Some Member States have publicly declared their intention to continue to burn coal. They should be obliged to use the technology already available to control mercury emissions.

Will the Commission make it mandatory to use technologies to eliminate mercury emissions from power stations that remain in operation?