

**Question for written answer E-009200/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Pollutant fossil fuels exported by European companies to Africa

The Guardian revealed yesterday (1 December 2016) that the US has to date spent USD 34 billion on 70 fossil fuel production projects worldwide, pushing the world even closer to a climatic disaster. This has led to attention being focused once more on a recent report (16 September 2016) published by the NGO 'Public Eye'<sup>1</sup> concerning the actions of European companies in Switzerland (Vitol, Trafigura and Addax & Oryx) that are selling to African countries large quantities of 'dirty' diesel and other pollutant fuels with high sulphur content that have been banned in Europe. In order to do this, they are exploiting the lax anti-pollution standards applied in most African countries. This enables the companies in question to chalk up massive profits at the cost of high levels of atmospheric pollution and thousands of premature deaths in the recipient African countries.

Many of the companies named in the report are also supplying Member State markets with crude oil or are actively involved in regional LNG markets.

In view of this:

1. Has the Commission investigated allegations made by Public Eye and how does it intend to respond?
2. Does it agree that practices such as those listed in the report are reprehensible and should be ended immediately?

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.publiceye.ch/fileadmin/files/documents/Rohstoffe/DirtyDiesel/PublicEye2016\\_DirtyDiesel\\_A-Public-Eye-Investigation.pdf](https://www.publiceye.ch/fileadmin/files/documents/Rohstoffe/DirtyDiesel/PublicEye2016_DirtyDiesel_A-Public-Eye-Investigation.pdf)