

**Question for written answer E-001521/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Unloading of bulk solids in the port of Alicante

The loading and unloading of bulk solids at quay 17 in the port of Alicante has been causing serious harm for a number of years to people living in areas near the port as a result of air pollution caused by the suspension in the air of particles of bulk solids which are handled in the open, such as coal or clinker.

The Port Authority has installed windbreak screens costing almost EUR 900 000, co-financed by the ERDF, yet despite this a substantial level of air pollution is still being generated, with serious health and environmental implications for the local people; even schools are affected. However, no consideration appears to have been given to the construction of closed vessels under depression where bulk can be handled, as requested by local residents and the educational authorities of the affected schools.

Does the Commission not consider this type of unloading to be in contravention of Directive 2001/81/EC on national emission ceilings and Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality, which seeks to reduce air pollution to levels which minimise harmful effects on human health and the environment?