

**Question for written answer E-003102/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Radioactive contamination in Palomares

In 1966, two US military aircraft collided over Palomares, in Almería, Spain. Four nuclear bombs fell to the ground, contaminating an area of 435 hectares. The USA carried out a partial clean-up operation, but removed only 3% of the contaminated soil.

Spain recently carried out radiation tests on soil that had not been removed or dispersed by the wind and rain, and sealed off four plots of land covering an area of 41 hectares. A Palomares rehabilitation plan (PRP) was later drawn up, and endorsed by the Commission in 2010.

Following talks with the USA, a compromise was reached in 2015, under the terms of which soil treatment and decontamination levels were reduced to 44% of those laid down in the PRP, and one of the plots of land is to be left with 4 Bq/g of Americium-241 in it. This could mean that the partial restrictions on the land concerned will apply indefinitely, and that the stigma that has plagued the local economy for the last 51 years is perpetuated.

1. Is the Commission aware of the heavy cuts that the USA has imposed on the Spanish Government in its counter-proposal on the PRP?
2. Will the Commission be carrying out a verification – under Article 35 of the Euratom Treaty – on the Spanish Government's new plans for the partial decontamination of Palomares?