

**Question for written answer E-002104/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Air pollution and health risks of chemical emissions in Alcantarilla, Murcia

Derivados Químicos is a company based in Alcantarilla (Murcia), whose activities are potentially polluting and are listed in the Spanish State Register of Pollutant Emissions (PRTR).

It uses highly dangerous solvents and carcinogenic, mutagenic, hormone-disrupting and toxic substances.

Its primary raw material is toluene, which makes up 20% of the 4 500 tonnes of solvents it uses annually, and it is the only place in the whole area where the substance is used.

Residents of Alcantarilla and the surrounding area are alarmed by the very high levels of toluene that have been detected in the area, which often reach a critical level.

Bearing in mind the World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines for Europe (Chapter 5.14); bearing in mind Directive 2005/59/EC, which deems it necessary to restrict the sale and use of toluene and TCB in order to protect public health and the environment; and bearing in mind the provisions of the Air Quality Framework Directive ensuring sufficient air quality levels to protect public health:

1. Is the Commission aware of these facts? If not, what will it do to check them?
2. What measures will the Commission take to protect public health and air quality in the area, pursuant to the standards set by the WHO and EU law?
3. Given the seriousness of this situation, is the Commission considering opening infringement proceedings?