

**Question for written answer P-003873/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Inácio Faria (PPE)

Subject: Bitumen plant in Arcozelo - serious threat to health and the environment

The bitumen plant in Arcozelo has been the target of public opposition owing to its serious environmental impact, vibrations, noise, and emissions of extremely harmful particulates that cause respiratory diseases. The plant, which is located in a rural area and is close to schools, produces 120 tonnes of bitumen products an hour. Six lorries an hour pass through the area to transport these products, without counting other traffic to and from the plant, and tyres are also stored on the site, adding to the impact on the environment and public health. This plant is illegal, since no environmental impact study has ever been carried out, it does not have a building permit – mandatory under the law – and it does not comply with the local development plan. It has even been subject to a court order decreeing the ‘immediate suspension’ of construction work, but this order has not been complied with by either the plant itself or the municipal council. Children going to the nearby school are forced to use scarves to protect themselves from the fumes that fill the streets, and farmers have given up their farms because pollution has meant that they are no longer viable. What steps is the Commission considering in response to this situation that poses a risk to health and the environment and involves repeated violations of EU law?