

**Question for written answer P-001556/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Tadeusz Zwiefka (PPE)

Subject: Funding for the regeneration of contaminated urban brownfield sites - Zachem, Bydgoszcz

According to a report drawn up by research staff at the AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków, the site of the former Zachem chemical plant on the outskirts of Bydgoszcz is the largest ecological time-bomb not just in Poland, but in the whole of Europe. Chemical waste is not only contaminating the soil, but also groundwater, and as a result toxins are spreading ever closer to residential areas, to land that is protected under Natura 2000, and to the Vistula. The residents of Łęgnowo-Wieś cannot drink the water, give it to animals, or even use it to bathe, as it has been established that in over 60% of the locations at which water is drawn, phenol levels are more than 50 times higher than they should be. The funding available from the National Fund for Environmental Protection (under the structural funds) is insufficient to provide a comprehensive solution to the problem of pollution caused by toxic waste in the area concerned. It is estimated that it will take 40 years to fully regenerate the land, a process which could cost in excess of PLN 2.5 billion. In addition, it is clear – on the basis of press reports and government answers to questions from national MPs – that the current government is in no hurry to allocate any resources at all to help prevent an environmental disaster.

1. Will the Commission provide financial resources to help complete this massive regeneration project, which, needless to say, this city of 400 000 people cannot afford to do?
2. In addition to the structural funds distributed by the Member State governments, does the Commission have programmes in which Bydgoszcz could participate with a view to finding a comprehensive solution to the problem of contaminated land around the former Zachem chemical plant?