

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0458/01

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to the Commission

Subject: Controlling the damage caused by toxic agents

Public opinion is understandably concerned about the increasing incidence of specific tumours, such as melanomas and leukaemias.

1. Is the Commission able to confirm this increased incidence?
2. Is it willing to set up a special temporary working group, under Commissioner Byrne, to conduct investigations in each EU Member State to ascertain what damage has been caused over the past ten years by specific toxic agents, such as benzene, additives used in strong detergents (for car bodies, graffiti, etc.), the impact of radiation from Chernobyl on water and the earth in Europe and contamination by depleted uranium, plutonium or other agents in the wake of the bombs dumped in the Adriatic and Lake Garda?
3. What measures does it intend to take to ascertain whether or not there is a connection between the increase in such tumours and the uncontrolled dissemination of these toxic agents?