

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3217/03
by Antonios Trakatellis (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Monitoring of atmospheric pollution in Greece

Recently-published studies show that, even if atmospheric pollution levels are limited or relatively low, they have immediate effects on the health of urban dwellers and there have been warnings that Greece, and in particular the Athens area, may fail to meet the requirements of the World Health Organisation unless suitable measures are taken regarding environmental pollution.

In view of the fact that European Union limits regarding dangerous pollutants are being exceeded in Greece:

1. What are the levels of concentration of volatile organic compounds, carcinogenic microparticles, benzene and ozone in the Attica region?
2. What measures have been taken by the Greek Government, in particular during summer when temperatures are particularly high, to combat atmospheric pollution?
3. To what extent did these measures correspond to European Union action in this area?
4. Has Greece taken action to transpose Directive 96/61/EC¹ into national law following the ruling by the European Court of Justice in case C-64/01;
5. Has Directive 2000/69/EC² relating to limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air been incorporated into Greek legislation?
6. Has the Commission been notified of the transposition by Greece of Directive 1999/30/EC³ relating to limit values for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead in ambient air and has it forwarded the relevant questionnaire to the Greek authorities?
7. Has Greece incorporated into its national legislation Directive 2001/81/EC⁴ on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants?

¹ OJ L 257, 10.10.1996, p. 26

² OJ L 313, 13.12.2000, p. 12

³ OJ L 163, 29.6.1999, p. 41

⁴ OJ L 309, 27.11.2001, p. 22