

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0517/04  
by Antonios Trakatellis (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Release of toxic waste by a fire at an industrial plant in Thessaloniki and non-compliance by Greece with ECJ judgment on hazardous waste

The explosion in a provisional storage area of 210 tonnes of toxic waste produced by the former 'DIANA' industrial plant in Thessaloniki caused a fire which led to the release of large amounts of toxic substances into the atmosphere and the environment, endangering public health. Environmental organisations have condemned the provisional storage of some 1 000 tonnes of dangerous pesticides in disused and run-down facilities belonging to the company in question. Repeated questions tabled by the author of the present question concerning the uncontrolled disposal of hazardous waste (P-2724/03<sup>1</sup> and E-3216/03<sup>2</sup>) have revealed that the whereabouts of the 230 000 tonnes of hazardous waste which are provisionally stored out of 390 000 tonnes produced annually in Greece are unknown. This is in breach of Community legislation (Directive 91/689/EEC<sup>3</sup> on hazardous waste, as amended by Directive 94/31/EC<sup>4</sup>).

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Which immediate measures can be taken to protect public health and the environment and to identify the final disposal or utilisation sites of the 230 000 tonnes of hazardous waste produced annually which are kept in provisional storage and constitute a time bomb for public health and the environment?
2. What measures has it taken or does it intend to take to ensure compliance with the Community provisions concerning the safe storage, monitoring and identification of toxic substances and waste in Greece?
3. How can environmental dumping and environmental pollution be discouraged through the effective implementation of Community legislation to the production activities carried out in Greece?
4. What stage has been reached in the procedure concerning the imposition of a fine on Greece for non-compliance with the ECJ judgment of 13 June 2002 (C-33/01), and what does it propose that the ECJ should do?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C

<sup>2</sup> OJ C

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 377, 31.12.1991, p.20

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 168, 2.7.1994, p.28