

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6646/07  
by Pilar Ayuso (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Storing metallic mercury

In its resolution (P6\_TA(2006)0078) of 14 March 2006 on the Community strategy on mercury, Parliament acknowledged the environmental and social consequence of the implementation of the mercury strategy. In its resolution (P6\_TA(2007)0267) of 20 June 2007 on the banning of exports and the safe storage of metallic mercury, Parliament said that 'prior to any other alternative, consideration shall be given to the possibility of using Almadén for the safe storage of the existing metallic mercury stocks'.

Given that according to what was adopted in the 20 June resolution, the Commission 'shall organise an initial exchange of information between Member States and the relevant stakeholders by 30 June 2010' which 'shall inter alia analyse the results of the consideration given to Almadén' as the site for safe storage in question, has work already started on assessing the Almadén mines as a possible site for the safe storage of metallic mercury in the European Union?

If the assessment has not yet been carried out, what is its scheduled commencement date?