

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3040/08
by Marie-Noëlle Lienemann (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Joint and several liability of parent companies in the event of environmental damage

What legislative provisions does the Commission envisage introducing in order to compel a parent company to compensate for environmental damage caused by one of its subsidiaries if the latter should fail to do so?

All too often environmental risks are isolated within one subsidiary and, in the event of environmental damage, the principle of limited liability of companies means that the responsibility cannot be laid at the door of the parent company.

Would it not be desirable to introduce at European level the concept of immediate joint and several liability of parent companies when one of their subsidiaries is found guilty of environmental damage?