

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2435/09  
by Anni Podimata (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Ban on the use of biomass burners in Attica and Thessaloniki

Ministerial Decision 103/1993/B-369 'regulating matters relating to the operation of permanent burners for heating buildings and water' bans the use of biomass burners in central systems in Attica and Thessaloniki. The exclusion of biomass applications occurred in 1993, since at that time available biomass systems produced relatively high emission levels of airborne particles.

However, technology has radically changed since then and now most European countries provide incentives to encourage the greater use of biomass. It should be noted that the recent Directive on renewables includes biomass as a renewable source of energy and recognises its importance for attaining the European target of 20%.

In this context, will the Commission say: does it intend to act – and if so how – to bring about a reform of existing Greek legislation governing permanent burners with a view to allowing the use of central heating systems for buildings and water with up-to-date biomass systems in the two major urban centres in Greece, namely Athens and Thessaloniki?