

**Question for written answer E-9002/2010  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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**Subject:** Toxic red sludge reached the Danube

The toxic red sludge that burst out of a Hungarian factory's reservoir and inundated three villages, killing at least nine people and injuring many others, has reached the mighty Danube with still unknown effects on the environment and human health in the countries neighbouring the river Danube.

It is of extreme importance to ensure that an environmental catastrophe affecting half a dozen nations is prevented when the red sludge, a waste product of aluminium production, contaminates the Danube, Europe's second-longest river. We would therefore like to ask the Commission whether it has already requested the following data from the Hungarian authorities, in order to have a clear overview of the impact and ensure that the proper measures are taken:

- The original analysis reports of the leak, all detailing the authors of the analysis, their methods and equipment, as well as the conditions under which the analysis was carried out.
- Two independent reports setting out the effects that each chemical compound identified has had on ecosystems, including the quantities that were spilled. Such reports should be drawn up by international experts and should refer to the recorded impact on bacterial flora, algal flora, micro fauna, flora and fauna.
- Reports from the plant, along with copies of the original documents, recording the quantity of substances that are being stored in the reservoirs.
- Report detailing the countermeasures that were undertaken (tonnes of chemicals were spilled as part of the countermeasures). In addition to this, two more independent expert reports should be drawn up, recording the impact on the environment of the new substances spilled as a countermeasure.
- A photo and a video report.