

**Question for written answer E-007613/2011  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Kristian Vigenin (S&D)**

**Subject:** Progress made in the project to construct an integrated system of facilities for the treatment of municipal waste in Sofia

The study phase of the project to create an integrated system of facilities for the treatment of municipal waste in Sofia (Bulgaria) has already lasted several years, which has delayed the start of the construction work itself. The favourable opinion recently issued by the Commission on the first phase, which includes the construction of a facility for the composting of vegetable and food waste, of a waste plant and of a waste sorting centre, has been highlighted by the Bulgarian Government as marking a long-awaited step towards resolving Sofia's waste problems.

However, several facets of the project remain unclear, and the government and city authorities have failed to provide sufficiently clear and consistent information on the stage reached in the project, what has been done and what remains to be done, or on the expenditure outlaid to date. The Prime Minister, who has known about this problem since 2005, has played around with the deadlines, decisions and amounts involved. At the same time, it is clear that the Souhodol waste dump will have reached its capacity long before the facilities are ready.

Could the Commission therefore indicate:

1. what stage has been reached in the project and what commitments the Commission intends to make in connection with it?
2. whether the city authorities have drawn up an action plan and honoured their commitments?
3. on what conditions (relating to projects that are the subject of distinct procedures, financing, assessments or opinions, etc.) the construction and efficient functioning of the integrated system is dependent, and how this will affect the timely completion of the project?
4. whether the expenses outlaid on consultancy and management services and European experts are in line with conditions on the Bulgarian market and whether the payments can be financed under the 'Technical Assistance' operational programme?