

**Question for written answer E-012610/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Indoor air quality

The CAFE report, 'Clean Air for Europe', published in 2005, estimated that 310 000 Europeans die prematurely every year as a result of air pollution.

In addition to the negative effect of atmospheric pollution, many national reports have established a link between pollution in buildings and the aggravated risk of deteriorating human health. For example, a report from the French Ministry of Health and Sport in 2010¹ maintains that indoor air pollutants may have varying effects on the health of individuals, such as skin irritation, nausea, headaches, respiratory and neurological pathologies and the development of certain cancers.

The first EU Environment and Health Action Plan 2004-2010 was the first to recognise the link between air pollution and public health problems. In particular, it advocated the implementation, on a voluntary basis, of measures related to indoor air quality. This Action Plan came to an end in 2010 and currently there are no real plans to renew it.

At the Environment Council on 10 October 2011, European Union ministers called on the Commission to promote health through environment policy by drawing up a second Environment and Health Action Plan at the beginning of 2012.

1. Will the Commission take note of the Council's request to draw up a second Environment and Health Action Plan starting from 2012? Will it include measures relating to indoor air quality in this action plan?
2. What measures has the Commission taken in the past to combat illnesses caused by poor quality indoor air, in particular those due to the infiltration and accumulation of ambient air pollution in buildings?
3. Does the Commission envisage promoting better air quality by means of other legislative or regulatory instruments? The Commission has announced that it will be adopting a legislative package in 2013 – the Year of Air. Will improving the quality of indoor air form part of this legislative package?

¹ Gestion de la qualité de l'air intérieur, établissements recevant du public, ministère de la santé et des sports et instituts de veille sanitaire, 2010 [Air Quality Management inside Buildings Open to the Public, Ministry of Health and Sports and Public Health Surveillance, 2010]