

**Question for written answer E-000157/2012  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Michail Tremopoulos (Verts/ALE)**

**Subject:** Violation of environmental legislation by an olive-pomace oil extraction plant in Vassiliki in Lefkada

In January 2011 in Vassiliki in Lefkada of the Ionian Islands Region, an olive-pomace oil extraction plant relaunched its operations in an area classified as 'high productivity land', after being licensed by the Prefecture of Lefkada. During the seven years during which the plant had suspended its operations, tourism and residential development in the surrounding areas was very rapid. As in the past, the operation of this particular unit immediately created serious environmental problems, which were reported by a group of active citizens, which led to the temporary shut-down of the plant by the Regional Authorities. A spot check by the Hellenic Environmental Inspectorate of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change revealed a series of violations of the current environmental legislation<sup>1</sup>, such as a failure to implement the proposed anti-pollution technology for waste gases, a failure to monitor gas emissions, omissions regarding the monitoring of the drying temperature and of the pomace's storage area, lack of anti-pollution technology for liquid waste, uncontrolled disposal of liquid waste, insufficient monitoring of the liquid and water waste quality, as well as excessive noise over the statutory limits. Nevertheless, the owner company immediately requested the annulment of the Regional Authorities' decision. Following the rejection of its request by the Decentralized Administration<sup>2</sup>, it appealed to the Council of the State in the face of opposition from the citizens of Lefkada who complained about the problems caused by the operation of the plant.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Does it intend to request detailed information on this matter from the Greek Authorities?
2. Given that the industrial plant in question is a medium polluter, does it intend to encourage, and cooperate with, the Greek Authorities to ensure that the unit is relocated in an area set aside for this kind of activity and that the company complies with European legislation?

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<sup>1</sup> Lefkada State Prosecutor's Office of First Instance, Protocol Ref. Nr. 1548/26-4-2011 and 1549/26-4-2011

<sup>2</sup> <http://static.diavgeia.gov.gr/doc/4%CE%91%CE%A78%CE%9F%CE%A11%CE%A6-5%CE%9D5>