

**Question for written answer E-007766/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Dan Jørgensen (S&D)**

Subject: Limit values for gypsum waste landfilled in Germany

In Germany, significant amounts of gypsum waste are being landfilled, and it is placed in the same cells as ordinary waste in the German landfill types one and two (*Deponiklasse* one and two). Thus, no special cells (mono-cells) for gypsum waste exist in German landfills. Germany has disregarded the need for mono-cells because it has applied relatively strict general limit values for the dissolved organic carbon (DOC) and total organic carbon (TOC) of the waste landfilled, and these values are below the requirements in section 2.2.3 of the Annex to Council Decision 2003/33/EC. However, these limit values can be, and in reality are, exceeded by numerous exceptions and, in addition, most active landfills in Germany today are situated on top of old household waste landfills (with a high content of organic waste), separated only by a mineral barrier. For instance, in the Nordic countries the DOC and TOC limits found in section 2.2.3 are applied to gypsum waste as well as to the other waste landfilled with it (in the special cell).

1. Can the Commission confirm that the limit values regarding TOC and DOC found in section 2.2.3 of the Annex to Council Decision 33/2003/EC, aimed at ensuring that hydrogen sulphite gases are not generated at the landfills accepting gypsum waste, should be applied to the other waste landfilled together with gypsum waste as well as to the gypsum waste landfilled?
2. What does the Commission intend to do about the fact that varying interpretations exist among Member States regarding which waste types the DOC and TOC limit values of section 2.2.3 should be applied to? In particular, how will the Commission help to ensure that Germany also applies the limit value for TOC and DOC to gypsum waste?
3. What does the Commission intend to do about the fact that no special cells for gypsum waste exist in Germany, where gypsum waste is accepted at virtually all type one and two landfills, where it is landfilled with or on top of old ordinary waste that can have DOC and TOC levels far above the limits found in section 2.2.3 of the Annex to Council Decision 2003/33/EC?