

**Question for written answer E-001630/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Pilar Ayuso (PPE)

Subject: EU strategy on mercury

An amendment to Directive 1999/31/EC, concerning criteria for the storage of metallic mercury considered as waste, was approved at the end of 2011. The amendment set out the technical requirements applying to temporary storage of mercury for between one and five years.

The requirements for permanent storage of mercury waste still need to be adopted therefore. The Commission says that current research has to be taken into account in establishing these requirements.

What research is being carried out in the EU in connection with disposal of mercury? When does the Commission envisage being able to establish legal requirements for final storage of mercury waste? What are the next steps the Commission will take in connection with the EU's strategy on mercury?