

**Question for written answer E-002319/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Nikos Chrysogelos (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Pollution from the abandoned Medet, Elshitza and Tzar Asen copper mines in the Sredna Gora Mountains, Bulgaria

There are three abandoned copper mines in the Sredna Gora Mountains in Bulgaria – Medet, Elshitza and Tzar Asen. Local people are reporting that cases of illness caused by the pollution from these abandoned mines are increasing.

According to Directive 2006/21/EC on the management of waste from extractive industries (EWD), Member States were required to prepare an inventory of potentially harmful closed and abandoned facilities by May 2012 at the latest¹.

The EWD includes requirements on the construction, safety and management of mining waste facilities and on pollution prevention.

1. Has the Commission received such an inventory from the Bulgarian Government?
2. What measures are being taken by the Member State to protect the health of the people living near these abandoned mines?
3. Should these measures prove inadequate, what action will be taken by the Commission?

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:102:0015:0033:en:PDF>