

**Question for written answer E-002324/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Nikos Chrysogelos (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Illegal operation of cyanide-leaching installation Kardjali, Bulgaria

According to the Ecological Association GEO, the company Gorubso Kardjali AD is currently operating a gold extraction installation in Kardjali, Bulgaria, using cyanide-leaching technology. The installation is located less than one kilometre from residential buildings in the town. There is a risk that cyanide may pollute the Arda river, leading to cross-border pollution in Turkey and Greece and posing dangerous threats to public health.

People in Kardjali are strongly opposed to this dangerous installation, which was approved by the Ministry of the Environment and Waters but which was declared illegal by the Bulgaria's High Administrative Court following a complaint by the town mayor and the GEO association. Furthermore, a majority of town councillors have supported a declaration opposing the project. The company is continuing with operations in spite of the opposition by the local community and the court's decision.

Is the Commission aware of this illegal and dangerous installation?

What measures is the Commission considering taking in order to enforce compliance by the Bulgarian Government with the rule of law and Community legislation (in particular Directive 2006/21/EC¹ on the management of waste from the extractive industries and Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy²)?

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

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2000:327:0001:0072:en:PDF>