

**Question for written answer E-005104/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Kriton Arsenis (S&D)**

Subject: Operating licence of Hellas Gold enrichment and storage facility in Olympiada and Stratoni in breach of SEVESO II Directive

On 19 December 2012, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change approved an operating licence for a facility to enrich mixed ore sulphides in Olympiada. A similar operating licence was also granted for an enrichment and storage facility in Stratoni. The materials produced and stored are demonstrably toxic and hazardous, and are classified under Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation) as 'very toxic' and 'toxic' in accordance with Article 20, Annex I, Part 2 of the SEVESO II Directive. The materials that are produced and stored in Olympiada (silica) are also classed as 'flammable' under Article 20, Annex I, part 2 of the SEVESO II Directive and as 'self-combusting' under Article 87(3) of the Mining Code. This is raw material (fuel, 40 % sulphur content) used to fire furnaces that produce the sulphur dioxide used to produce sulphuric acid. The quantities stored vastly exceed the limits stipulated in Article 20, Annex I, Part 2 of the SEVESO II Directive and fall under column 2 (Article 8), which stipulates that comprehensive safety measures need to be taken.

Despite this, the operating licences do not class the condensates as 'toxic and hazardous' and no special health and safety measures for employees and nearby residents or environmental protection measures have been taken in accordance with the SEVESO II Directive. The condensates are handled in bulk as if they were inert (sand or gravel) and are stored in makeshift, exposed hangars. Moreover, planning permission for the enrichment factory was granted without due regard for Article 12 of the SEVESO II Directive in terms of safety distances from residential areas, road networks and recreational areas, meaning that the installations act as potential toxic 'bombs' which are endangering the greater area.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

Is the operating licence granted to the Hellas Gold enrichment and storage facilities in Olympiada and Stratoni in breach of the SEVESO II Directive? Is the Greek Government obliged to revoke the operating licence in application of the provisions of the aforementioned Directive?