

**Question for written answer E-005269/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Kriton Arsenis (S&D)**

Subject: Contamination of groundwater in NE Chalkidiki through the activities of Hellas Gold

The environmental permit issued for the 'Mavra Petra' mine gallery in Chalkidiki provided for the backfilling of the gallery. However, Hellas Gold has done so with extractive waste that contains arsenic and other heavy metals which pose a direct risk to public health: the galleries filled with extractive waste are releasing arsenic, a development that requires continuous monitoring and controls. Repeated incidents have been identified in which water in nearby villages (Neochori, Olympiada, etc.) has been contaminated by arsenic.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Is it aware of this state of affairs?
2. Does it consider that groundwater contamination due to the activities of *Hellas Gold* constitutes a violation of Directive 2000/60/EC?
3. Does it intend to ask the Greek authorities to brief it on any measures and controls the company has carried out to safeguard public health in nearby areas?