

**Question for written answer E-006199/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Air quality in Bulgaria

In October, the Commission warned Bulgaria that should it 'fail to take the requisite measures and the case be referred back to the European Court of Justice, financial penalties could be imposed'. Financial penalties will not in themselves solve the problem of the country's air pollution.

That pollution has reached unprecedented proportions in the big towns and cities of Bulgaria. For days on end, air quality has fallen to three times below the permitted levels. Bulgaria's Ministry of Environment and Water has proposed a new clean air act which introduces a standard for fuels used for domestic heating. The problem is that this standard will only apply to the quality of coal, when in 2017 over 75% of households with solid fuel heating used biomass (primarily wood). Another issue that remains unresolved is that each municipality adopts its own programme for combating air pollution. Then there is also the problem of monitoring the implementation of those programmes.

Will the Commission adopt additional measures in response to the Bulgarian authorities' inability to solve the problem of air pollution?

Will it take more decisive action on monitoring of the implementation of the promised programmes and their results?