

**Question for written answer E-000402/2019  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Eleftherios Synadinos (NI)**

**Subject:** Use of tear gas to disperse peaceful mass demonstrations

After a 'joint action by the government and nominally anti-authoritarian activists' seeking to provoke an incident<sup>1</sup>, the Greek Police, taking its cue from the leadership's policy, used large quantities of chemical substances to disperse hundreds of thousands of people without any reason and without respecting their safety; the demonstrators were peacefully and freely exercising their right of assembly to protest in favour the Greek identity of Macedonia<sup>2</sup>. Imported Brazilian tear gas that was apparently past its use-by date (January 2017) was used, despite the relevant warning<sup>3 4</sup>.

The Athens Medical Association<sup>5 6</sup> has lodged a complaint because this 'posed a threat to the lives and health of all citizens', particularly sensitive groups such as children and the elderly, while the Association of Greek Chemists<sup>7</sup> has noted the risks posed by the use of CS gas, which is banned for military purposes under the Chemical Weapons Convention and the relevant UN resolution (2603/16-12-1969).

In view of the above can the Commission say:

1. How is it possible that a chemical, that is considered a weapon and is internationally banned as a weapon in war, is not banned in the Union and is not covered by Regulation 1272/2008, despite the scientifically documented risks?
2. Does it have any data on the impact of CS gas on health and safety?
3. Does it consider that the specific use of CS gas is in line with the European Convention on Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.businessnews.gr/article/131911/polemos-anakoinoseon-gia-ti-hrisi-himikon-sto-syllalitirio-gia-ti-makedonia>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.protothema.gr/greece/article/857170/i-elas-paradothike-stous-akraious-kai-dieluse-to-sullalitirio-gia-ti-makedonia/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cnn.gr/news/ellada/story/162593/syllalitirio-gia-ti-makedonia-kataggelies-gia-ta-ximika-eixan-lixei-edo-kai-dyo-xronia>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.protothema.gr/greece/article/857130/kataggelia-ligmena-apo-to-2017-itan-ta-himika-pou-epesan-sto-sudagma/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cnn.gr/news/ellada/story/162696/syllalitirio-gia-ti-makedonia-minytiria-anafora-toy-isa-ston-eisaggelea-gia-ligmena-ximika>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.capital.gr/epikairoτητα/3339312/minytiria-anafora-tou-iatrikou-sullogou-gia-epikinduna-ligmena-ximika-sto-sullalitirio-gia-ti-makedonia>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.protothema.gr/greece/article/857663/sullalitirio-gia-ti-makedonia-epistolitis-enosis-ellinon-himikon-pros-ton-tsipra-gia-ti-hrisi-dakrugonon/>