

**Question for written answer E-002024/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Air pollution in Western Thessaloniki

Individual residents and various bodies have for years been expressing concern at steadily increasing pollution levels from industrial plant in Western Thessaloniki.

According to the findings of a six-month study carried out by the Central Macedonia regional authorities in conjunction with the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki on the causes of unpleasant odours in the Kordelio-Evsomos municipality, 55 compounds with a distinctive smell were identified in 171 samples from three measuring stations.

In their communication (of 14 February 2019), the authors express concern that 'unrestricted industrial activity in an already polluted area, with the tolerance of the State and the local government has, over the years, allowed the problem to grow out of all proportion, with matters finally coming to a head'. The patience and tolerance of local residents is being put to the test on a daily basis, with the harmful effects of long-term exposure to toxic pollutants constantly increasing and quality of life deteriorating. At the same time, no competent body has so far addressed the safety issues arising from the proximity of industrial plant in accordance with the revised SEVESO III provisions.

In view of this:

Can the Commission say whether industrial plant in the area is operating in line with the provisions of the SEVESO III Directive? If not, will it take suitable action?

What measures will it take to resolve the chronic and growing problem of air pollution in the Western Thessaloniki area?