

**Question for written answer E-002789/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Demetris Papadakis (S&D)**

Subject: Ageing of lungs due to air pollution

According to research findings by Leicester University, exposure to exhaust pollutants and emissions from factories increases the likelihood of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. More specifically, each annual average increase of five micrograms per cubic metre of air causes a reduction in lung capacity equivalent to two years of ageing.

Furthermore, the sample tests showed that the risk to those on a lower income was three times as high as the risk to the more affluent, something that may be attributable to unhealthy living conditions and poor diet.

In view of this:

Can the Commission say what action it will take to combat and prevent air pollution?

What measures will it take to provide more effective protection for vulnerable groups against long-term disorders and diseases linked to air pollution?