

**Question for written answer E-004886/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew)

Subject: Independent report on the accident at the Zaldibar landfill site

On 13 May 2020, the Commission forwarded a written answer to questions E-000949/2020, E-001011/2020, E-001025/2020, E-001026/2020, E-001027/2020, E-001031/2020 and E-001033/2020 concerning the accident on 6 February 2020 at the industrial landfill site in Zaldibar in the Basque Country. In its answer the Commission stated that the information provided in the written questions, which was taken from inspections carried out by the Basque Country's Regional Government, 'suggests important shortcomings that should have been detected, followed through and ultimately sanctioned appropriately by the competent authorities.' To date, millions of tonnes of waste have been examined, the body of one of the victims has been recovered, the site has been stabilised once again and two reports on the site's management and its inspections and controls have been produced. The British consultancy firm Ricargo Energy & Environment concludes in one of these reports that the operating licences and periodic activity inspections comply with EU legislation and describes the inspections as 'well structured and thorough'.

1. When will the Commission conclude its report on this accident?
2. What has been the stance taken by the competent authorities during the Commission's investigations?
3. Given the information provided in this question, do the Commission's initial impressions remain the same?