

**Question for written answer E-005275/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

José Gusmão (GUE/NGL), **Marisa Matias** (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Asbestos dumped in household rubbish bins and woodland endangering public health and the environment

The use and handling of asbestos – a toxic and carcinogenic material – poses a danger for public health and the environment.

The disposal of asbestos in landfill sites containing biodegradable waste has been banned since 2009, yet the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA) only prohibited its licensing at various Portuguese landfill sites this year and has decided to concentrate the disposal of such materials in the Chamusca area.

A number of environmental groups believe that this was a hasty decision which actually makes things worse.

In recent months, work has been underway to remove asbestos fibres from various schools and other buildings. While this is a positive development, it has given rise to other concerns.

The practices of illegally disposing of asbestos-containing waste in household rubbish bins or dumping it in woodland, presumably to avoid the high cost of transport to Chamusca, point to the risk to public health and the environment.

This leads to the conclusion that the implementation of the Waste Management Directive in Portugal is not only late but also ineffective.

In the light of the above, what measures will the Commission take to urge Portugal to duly implement the applicable EU legislation?