

**Question for written answer E-006033/2020  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Annika Bruna** (ID)

Subject: Ending the trafficking of unsorted waste in the EU

The cement industry emits around 7% of the world's CO2 emissions. In order to reduce its fossil fuel consumption and cut its energy bill, it now uses household waste as fuel.

The combustion of household waste, especially as a substitute for coal, should in principle have a positive effect on the environment.

However, this waste has become the target of a particular type of trafficking. It is often illegally exported from Western Europe, where there is a lack of processing capacity, to Eastern Europe, especially Romania or Bulgaria, where cement manufacturers charge less for burning waste.

As this illegal waste is not sorted, cement plants in Eastern Europe sometimes burn heavy metals or dioxins. As a result, hospitals near these plants have noticed an increase in respiratory diseases and cancers.

In light of the above:

1. What steps does the Commission intend to take to tackle the trafficking of unsorted waste in the EU?
2. In the absence of sufficient and effective controls in importing countries, does the Commission intend to take steps to ensure that countries exporting this waste take responsibility?