

**Question for written answer E-006767/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Update of the Seveso III Directive in the light of a serious accident at the Tarragona petrochemical complex

The Tarragona petrochemical complex is located very close to urban centres where 350 000 people live within a radius of 10 km. On 14 January 2020, there was an explosion at the Iqoxe company plant, killing three people. The blast was so powerful that a one-ton metal plate hit a victim's house 2.5 km away, killing him.

The external report commissioned by the Government of Catalonia identified the causes of the accident and pointed out that it seemed very likely that the chemical blast occurred because the various barriers that should have prevented an explosion either did not exist, were inadequate or failed.

The Catalan Parliament has consequently established a committee of inquiry to address the need to harmonise regulations and update the European directive.

Directive 2012/18/EU, known as Seveso III, provides for the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, especially chemicals.

In view of the Iqoxe accident in Tarragona in January 2020, does the Commission consider that the risks should be reassessed and the directive updated?