

**Question for written answer E-005270/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Nicolás González Casares (S&D), César Luena (S&D), Javi López (S&D), Marcos Ros Sempere (S&D), Ibán García Del Blanco (S&D), Jonás Fernández (S&D), Mónica Silvana González (S&D)**

**Subject:** Methane emissions detected at landfill sites in Madrid

The European Space Agency reported<sup>1</sup> recently that in August a number of satellites (Copernicus Sentinel-5P and GHGSat satellites) detected methane being emitted at a rate of 8 800 kg/hour from two landfill sites not far from the centre of Madrid. This is the highest emission rate that GHGSat has ever observed in Europe, and would be sufficient, it has been estimated, to provide power for 350 000 households.

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas and a potent local air pollutant, as has been highlighted in the EU's methane strategy.

Furthermore, bearing in mind that the ISGlobal study<sup>2</sup> found that Madrid had the worst figures for mortality related to air pollution (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub>):

1. Does the Commission know why this happened or is it investigating it?
2. Has the Commission been notified or made aware of projects or measures being taken to solve the problem of these methane leaks?
3. Is the Commission making progress with methane monitoring campaigns?

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<sup>1</sup>

[https://www.esa.int/Applications/Observing\\_the\\_Earth/Satellites\\_detect\\_large\\_methane\\_emissions\\_from\\_Madrid\\_landfills](https://www.esa.int/Applications/Observing_the_Earth/Satellites_detect_large_methane_emissions_from_Madrid_landfills)

<sup>2</sup> Khomenko S, Cirach M, Pereira-Barboza E, Mueller N, Barrera-Gómez J, Rojas-Rueda D, de Hoogh K, Hoek G, Nieuwenhuijsen M. Premature mortality due to air pollution in European cities; an Urban Burden of Disease Assessment. The Lancet Planetary Health, 2021. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196\(20\)30272-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(20)30272-2).