

**Question for written answer E-001448/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)**

Subject: Imposition of a 'landfill tax' and 'environmental contribution'

The Nea Demokratia government has put into effect the collection of 'landfill taxes' from municipalities that are members of solid waste management bodies. These taxes apply to waste disposed of in landfills. This tax is in addition to the 'environmental contribution' brought in by the Syriza government.

These taxes should be seen in the context of the more generalised tax raid in the service of capital's requirements for greater profits. They come on top of the taxes on plastic bags and on the separate collection of municipal packaging waste, which is paid for by ordinary working families. What we see here is the EU's reactionary 'strategy for a circular economy and waste reduction', which regards waste as a profitable commodity and ... 'reduces' waste by burning a high proportion of it in order to produce electricity, generating serious risks for health and the environment.

In the light of this:

What is the Commission's position regarding the fact that the EU's 'circular economy' strategy places the cost of the alternative management of waste on ordinary working families, rendering the much-trumpeted, but misleadingly entitled 'extended producer responsibility' just an empty phrase? What is its stance on the call to abolish the landfill tax and the environmental contribution?

What is the Commission's view on the fact that, irrespective of its approval or rejection, landfills operate as uncontrolled dumps? What does it think of the fact that 'recycling' at the responsibility of the state and on the basis of EU directives is used as a pretext for handing out huge subsidies to business groups, at the expense of the environment, health and the income of the ordinary people, whose resources have been plundered for the purpose?