

**Question for written answer E-000541/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Annika Bruna (ID), Eric Minardi (ID), Mathilde Androuët (ID), Elżbieta Kruk (ECR), France Jamet (ID)

Subject: Tackling the environmental factors that cause endometriosis

Endometriosis is an inflammatory and chronic gynaecological disease that affects almost 10% of women. It can result in severe pain during menstruation or fertility issues. It is a painful disease that can be debilitating.

Endometriosis is a multifactorial disease, meaning that it can be caused by hormonal, environmental and genetic factors. In terms of the environmental factors, researchers have found that a number of pollutants – such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), organochlorine pesticides and dioxins – contaminate our organisms and can lead to endometriosis in women.

Studies show that exposure to PCBs increases the risk of endometriosis by 70%. The risk is increased by 65% where there is exposure to dioxins and 23% where there is exposure to organochlorine pesticides. However, these persistent organic pollutants – some of which, such as PCBs, are already banned – break down very slowly in the environment and accumulate in different environments, especially soil.

1. Is the Commission aware of the link between these persistent organic pollutants and endometriosis?
2. Does it intend to take action to reduce or eliminate emissions of these pollutants into our environment?

Submitted: 21.2.2023