

**Question for written answer E-003580/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Mitigation of climate change and human rights guarantees in relation to the Punta Catalina power plant (Dominican Republic)

Cooperation efforts between the European Union and the Dominican Republic have, through the synergies of the European Green Deal, furthered sustainable development, climate change mitigation and the building of more sustainable and equitable societies. Their cooperation is underpinned by the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for the Dominican Republic 2021-2024, which totals EUR 21 million.

The state-owned coal-fired energy plant Punta Catalina now generates 30% of the country's electricity and there has been a resurgence of diseases associated with air pollutants. The plant's toxic waste seems to be deposited in the open air, polluting the surrounding waters and soil. What is more, emissions of gases and particulate matter from the plant appear to exceed European standards.

1. Has the Commission considered the impact of the Punta Catalina plant on health and the environment and taken account of efforts by the state to remedy the damage caused?
2. Does it believe that the MIP for the Dominican Republic is supporting climate change mitigation?
3. Is it considering using Global Gateway funds to turn the Punta Catalina plant into a transitional or clean energy source in the Dominican Republic?

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