

**Question for written answer E-003724/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Benoît Lutgen (PPE)

Subject: Fires during the lithium battery recycling process

Lithium batteries are a fixture in every part of our everyday lives: demand for them is growing rapidly and is expected to increase 14-fold by 2030, with the European Union potentially accounting for 17% of this demand. This increase is chiefly attributable to the electrification of means of transport.

This raises many issues in terms of both sovereignty and safety. Denuo, the Belgian federation of recycling companies, has recently issued a warning. Ever more fires are breaking out in recycling centres owing to poorly sorted lithium batteries.

A Commission proposal dating from December 2020 served as the basis for an agreement between the Council and Parliament aimed at making all batteries sold in the EU more sustainable, safer and part of the circular economy.

Can Commission say whether any long-term safety measures are planned to prevent such fires during both manufacturing and recycling?

Submitted: 19.12.2023