

ORAL QUESTION H-0831/01

for Question Time at the part-session in November 2001

pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure

by Karsten Knolle

to the Commission

Subject: Discharge of sewage into the sea through new pipes instead of using new, EU-funded treatment plant

According to the residents of Ermioni (a list of 97 signatures is available), a sewage treatment plant was built five years ago in the town but has not so far gone into operation.

All the town's sewage is discharged directly into the sea through pipes, some of which have been newly laid. It was only in recent years that pipes were laid to divert sewage around the town. Although the local authorities regretted that the treatment plant was not operational, no-one could give a reason for it. Apparently the resulting stench does not disturb many of the local residents and presumably they are unwilling to pay the cost of sewage treatment.

Was the Ermioni plant built with EU funding? Are there any EU provisions prohibiting the discharge of untreated urban sewage into the sea? Who can take action against this environmental crime, and in what manner?

Tabled: 17.10.2001

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