

ORAL QUESTION H-0070/04
for Question Time at the part-session in March I 2004
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Alexandros Alavanos
to the Commission

Subject: Excessively high concentrations of microparticulates in the atmosphere in Athens

In her answer to a previous oral question I had tabled in September 2003 (H-0457/03¹) on health risks for the population of Athens from high concentrations of nitrogen dioxide and microparticulates, Commissioner Wallström, the Commissioner responsible, acknowledged that until 2001 the daily limit value plus margin of tolerance for the microparticulates PM10 and PM2.5 and for NO2 had been exceeded at measuring stations in Athens and that Greece had not given the necessary justification demonstrating that such excesses were due to natural events. The Commission was therefore expecting to receive by the end of 2003 plans and programmes showing that emissions would be limited to the levels set out in Article 8 of the Framework Directive.

Since the Commission services, as the Commissioner emphasised, 'will open an own-initiative case to investigate whether and to what extent the Greek authorities have not complied with the relevant EC regulations', will the Commission say whether NO2 pollutant levels and concentrations of microparticulates in Athens are still excessive? What representations has it made to the Greek authorities to prevail upon them to comply with the relevant regulations? Has Greece taken any measures to improve the situation? If so, what are they?

Tabled: 29.01.2004
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¹ Oral answer of 2.9.2003