

ORAL QUESTION H-0114/04  
for Question Time at the part-session in March I 2004  
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Hedwig Keppelhoff-Wiechert  
to the Commission

Subject: Violations of environmental legislation at Dublin water purification plant

The main water purification plant in Dublin was built with the help of large EU subsidies. I have now been informed that this plant does not meet the required environmental standards and is in fact in breach of current environmental legislation. Untreated sewage sludge is being discharged illegally by the competent Irish authorities into the Irish Sea off Dublin. It is alleged that the plant's capacity limits for waste water and sewage sludge treatment are being significantly exceeded, and that the plant was designed on far too small a scale. Discharge takes place through pipes added on after the plant was built. Since the discharge point is downstream of the testing points, analyses of the purified waste water do not show up any pollution problems. According to my source, it would be easy to ascertain the quantities of sewage sludge discharged by comparing the amounts of sludge generated with the amounts treated.

Can the Commission tell the European Parliament what measures it is taking to monitor this plant, and subsequently what the results of this monitoring are?

Tabled: 26.02.2004  
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