

ORAL QUESTION H-0756/08

for Question Time at the part-session in October 2008
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Konstantinos Droutsas
to the Commission

Subject: Pollution of drainage channel 66 in the municipality of Irinoupolis caused by dumping of untreated industrial waste

Uncontrolled dumping of untreated industrial waste into drainage channel 66 in the municipality of Irinoupolis (prefecture of Imathia) is causing severe problems for the environment in the area and for the health of local residents. The peach processing factories in the prefectures of Imathia and Pellas are equipped with biological treatment systems but, in order to reduce their operating costs, they do not use them and discharge their waste into the drainage channel. This arbitrary method of disposal constitutes a longstanding environmental crime. Dead fish number in their thousands, the water in the channel is contaminated and the stench is unbearable. Water from channel 66 flows into the River Aliakmonas, which supplies water to the city of Thessaloniki, and ends up in the delta of the Rivers Aliakmonas and Axios (an area protected by the Ramsar Convention), compounding pollution in the Thermaic Gulf. Furthermore, this water is also used to irrigate the fields in the region as a whole, thereby adversely affecting stockfarming and, through the food chain, humans and public health.

Will the Commission take measures to put an end to the pollution of drainage channel 66 caused by the arbitrary disposal of industrial waste, restore the natural environment in the area and protect public health?

What is the Commission's position on the continued pollution of drainage channel 66 caused by the arbitrary disposal of industrial waste and on the need to restore the natural environment in the area and protect public health?

Tabled: 16.09.2008

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