

ORAL QUESTION H-0950/08
for Question Time at the part-session in December 2008
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Konstantinos Droutsas
to the Commission

Subject: Survey of pollution in the Thermaic Gulf

The research findings of the Aristotle University concerning pollution of the Thermaic Gulf from shore-based sources reveal high concentrations of heavy metals and other toxic substances, pesticide residues, carcinogenic aromatic hydrocarbons and intensive eutrophy. The port of Thessaloniki and the old beach have been designated as 'dead zones'.

This situation is principally ascribed to illegal industrial effluent, substandard biological purification plant, the absence of third-level purification and excessive use of pesticides, the reasons for which can be traced back to the unpopular policies of the PASOK and ND governments, concerning the environment, for example. While these problems were far from new, they became aggravated while successive governments, then as now, confined themselves to general statements and facile promises.

What is the Commission's assessment of the situation in the Thermaic Gulf and its impact on public health and the environment?

Tabled: 02.12.2008
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