

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2724/03
by Antonios Trakatellis (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Uncontrolled disposal of toxic waste and chemical substances in Greece and infringement of environmental legislation by a toxic waste processing plant at Larimna in the prefecture of Fthiotida

In 1998, the Greek authorities notified the Commission that they had produced a total quantity of toxic waste amounting to 287 000 tonnes, 65 000 tonnes of which had been recycled. At the present time, however, according to information from research institutes, the annual production of hazardous waste is estimated to be 500 000 tonnes. Moreover, on 13 June 2002, the Court of Justice ruled against Greece (case C-33/2001) for its failure to take the necessary measures to record and identify hazardous waste at its site of disposal, as laid down in Directive 91/689/EEC¹.

1. What quantity of hazardous waste is produced in Greece, how much of that quantity is recycled or stored and at which sites is it disposed of?
2. Is Greece in compliance with the provisions of Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous waste and the judgment of the Court of Justice in case C-33/2001? What measures will the Commission take to ensure that the environment and public health in Greece is protected from the uncontrolled discharging and dumping of hazardous waste and chemical substances such as PCBs and PCTs, the toxicity and tendency to bioaccumulation of which constitute a particular threat to the environment and human health?
3. Is the Commission aware that the Greek authorities are planning to authorise the construction of a toxic waste processing plant in a residential area of Larimna in the prefecture of Fthiotida, in breach of Directive 85/337/EEC² on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, as amended by Directive 97/11/EC³? What measures it will take to ensure the protection of the environment and compliance with Community legislation?

¹ OJ L 377, 31.12.1991, p.20

² OJ L 175, 5.7.1991, p. 40

³ OJ L 73, 14.3.1997, p. 5