

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3000/08  
by Sylwester Chruszcz (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Protection of the environment

In the German town of Schwedt, which lies on the border with Poland, work is beginning on the construction of a waste incineration plant. It is estimated that 330 000 tonnes of waste will be incinerated at the plant each year. In January 2008, the authorities authorised the construction of a fuel boiler with a thermal input in the region of 140 kW. This authorisation was granted shortly after the Commission issued its opinion on the compatibility of the project in Schwedt with European law. The incineration plant, belonging to the firm LEIPA Georg Leinefelder GmbH, could emit pollutant gases such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, hydrogen chloride and hydrogen fluoride, as well as heavy metal particles – copper, mercury, nickel, lead and zinc – and aromatic polycyclic hydrocarbons and polychlorinated dibenzofurans. According to Polish experts, this will pose a huge environmental threat to land across the border in Poland, as 70% of the winds blow in the direction of Poland.

In view of the fact that the existing paper mills in Schwedt plan to up their production by 60%, does the Commission intend to take appropriate steps to protect the precious countryside of the Lower Oder Valley conservation area?