

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2659/09
by Hanna Foltyn-Kubicka (UEN)
to the Commission

Subject: Nord Stream plans to detonate mines on the Baltic Sea bed

Twenty centimetres below the Baltic Sea bed, primarily in the Gulf of Finland, lie vast quantities of paper-production waste containing, among other things, dioxines, which are highly toxic. According to the findings of Finnish studies, alongside such toxic waste, the bed of the Gulf of Finland also contains some 900 Second World War naval mines.

The mines are located on the route that the Baltic Sea gas pipeline is to take and therefore need to be cleared. According to an official statement, Nord Stream intends to detonate the mines. One does not require any specialist knowledge to realise that the Baltic Sea is in very real risk of an environmental disaster of unprecedented proportions, which could destroy the ecosystem for an incalculable period of time and threaten both the health and the lives of EU citizens.

How does the Commission intend to prevent such a disaster from happening? In particular, does it intend to exert pressure on Germany, a Member State that is directly involved in the Nord Stream consortium's project?