

**Question for written answer P-000145/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Vladko Todorov Panayotov (ALDE)

Subject: Atmospheric pollution in the city of Sofia

The atmospheric pollution in the city of Sofia is severe, especially during the winter when sources of pollution include obsolete heating systems and illegal practices such as the burning of tyres – for heating, in the case of certain sections of the population, or for purposes of extracting steel, which is saleable.

The result is that the air quality generally falls well below required EU standards and there is a specific major problem with PM 10 – all of which affects not only the environment but also the health of the capital's citizens.

What steps is the Commission considering to address these problems as a matter of urgency, and how, in particular, can the illegal practice of tyre burning be stopped?