

**Question for written answer P-012033/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Erik Bánki (PPE)

Subject: Alternative mining project at Krumovgrad

At present, many goldmining projects are awaiting authorisation, inter alia in Romania, Slovakia and Bulgaria. There is cause for concern in the fact that the investors use the financially cheapest technology – cyanide leaching – rather than any environmentally more benign methods, although it would be advisable to opt for alternative solutions. A very good example is the mining project near Krumovgrad in Bulgaria, in which such cutting-edge technologies are to be used as the integrated mining-waste system.

1. In view of the above, does the Commission know exactly what technology is to be used in the goldmine near Krumovgrad?
2. Can the Commission list the possible alternatives and ascertain the latest research results in this field?
3. In this light, will the Commission finally propose that mining with cyanide be banned by the European Union?