

**Question for written answer E-002980/2024  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Maria Zacharia (NI)**

**Subject:** Antimony mining on the island of Chios

In recent months, the inhabitants of Chios have been troubled by the Greek Government's upcoming plans to mine for antimony (surface and underground mining) in a forest area on the boundaries of Natura site GR4130003. The map of the area where the mining will take place includes villages, settlements, a hot spring and baths and there are concerns about the impact the mining activities will have on the water table. Meanwhile, antimony mines in China are closing due to the stricter environmental requirements introduced in the country.

Recital 17 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 on ensuring a secure and sustainable (EU) supply of critical raw materials states that to ensure the sustainability of the production of critical raw materials, new projects should be planned and implemented sustainably, including ensuring environmental protection and the prevention and minimisation of socially adverse impacts through transparent business practices.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of the mining activities in northern Chios and their impact on the environment, social cohesion and the quality of the island's drinking water?
2. Has the Commission considered antimony recycling or the parallel process of extracting antimony from mined copper, lead and gold, as is the practice worldwide?

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