

Question for written answer E-004768/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Industrial pollution and human and environmental rights violations arising from Veolia's activities in Colombia

In 2019, Veolia purchased a landfill site in Barrancabermeja, Colombia. Since then, work done by NGOs has revealed that Veolia has committed serious violations of human and environmental rights. Untreated pollutants are being discharged into a protected wetland that feeds several rivers and provides drinking water to 300 000 people. The end result: heavy metals are seeping into the environment, with mercury levels 25 times higher than the maximum permissible limit, and this in a corridor designated as a feline protection area.

This poisoning of the ecosystem is causing cancer, kidney and brain damage, and congenital malformations in infants. There has been wholesale disappearance of wildlife and it is now impossible to fish. Several whistleblowers have had to flee the region after being threatened by paramilitary groups allegedly in cahoots with the multinational.

Will the Commission therefore:

1. Take cognisance of its moral failure, given its desire to totally dismantle the directive on corporate sustainability due diligence for big companies?
2. Monitor and sanction violations of environmental and fundamental rights, along with Veolia's corporate accountability obligations?
3. Ensure the necessary protection is provided for the activists and whistle-blowers involved?

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