

**Question for written answer E-004952/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Protecting citizens from toxic waste: rethinking the EU's approach to incineration

Europe faces a pressing environmental and public health dilemma. Despite clear evidence of overcapacity, plans for new waste incinerators across the EU continue.

This approach locks Member States into decades of high-emission infrastructure, undermining the EU's commitment to climate neutrality and the circular economy. Incineration not only contradicts the zero-waste hierarchy, but also exposes nearby populations to toxic pollutants, with long-term effects on air quality and public health.

In Romania, as in several other Member States, communities already suffer from poor waste management and high pollution levels, conditions that would only worsen with further investment in incineration rather than prevention, reuse and recycling.

In the light of these concerns and the growing call from civil society for a temporary suspension on new incinerators, what measures does the Commission intend to take to halt this harmful trend, protect citizens from its toxic effects, and ensure that EU funding and legislation genuinely prioritise waste reduction and circular, low-emission alternatives?

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