

**Question for written answer E-003228/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Repeated recycling plant and landfill fires and dangerous exposure to toxic carcinogens

The third fire in a recycling plant in a year broke out in Thessaloniki, while the fire that started in the landfill on Paros was devastating.

This unacceptable situation is a direct consequence of EU policy, which serves the profitability of business groups that make a fortune from waste.

In view of the above:

1. What is the Commission's position on the fact that destructive fires are constantly breaking out in landfills, as well as yet another in a recycling plant, given that the necessary protective measures to prevent fires or other natural disasters, with the necessary personnel and infrastructure, are not being observed, while these plants operate near residential areas, creating additional risks of pollution and contamination?
2. What is the Commission's position on the fact that there is an urgent need to fund epidemiological studies and imaging tests on the population for cancers, respiratory and other diseases, so that there is a thorough investigation of the consequences on the health and life of the residents of the areas adjacent to these units, as well as in the wider region?
3. What is the Commission's position on the fact that the 'green' declarations of the EU, such as Directive (EU) 2024/2881 and Directive 2006/118/EC, and those of governments, are proven not to be aimed at protecting the environment, but on the contrary legitimise this unacceptable situation, as, among other things, no substantive measures are being taken and there is no established mechanism for the immediate restoration of polluted land in order to avoid contamination of the aquifer, the groundwater of the area and the air?

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