

**Question for written answer E-004333/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Air pollution and environmental risks caused by stubble burning in Türkiye, near the river Evros

The systematic burning of crop residue from rice fields on the Turkish side of the river Evros, is causing repeated instances of air pollution in the border regions of Greece, particularly in the Regional Unit of Evros. This practice produces heavy smoke that impairs air quality and puts the health of residents at risk.

In addition, water run-off carries burned agricultural waste and other pollutants that contaminate the river Evros, its delta ecosystem and marine coastal areas of the north-eastern Aegean, affecting biodiversity, fisheries and public health.

Since Türkiye is an accession country, it has a duty to follow the EU's environmental commitments on burning bans and not endanger Evros' inhabitants and ecosystem.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it intend to examine the cross-border impact of stubble burning in Türkiye and ask the competent Turkish authorities for information and measures to limit air and water pollution in the Greek border regions?
2. What measures does it intend to take, in the context of EU-Türkiye relations and the accession process, to ensure the effective protection of public health and cross-border ecosystems?

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