

**Question for written answer E-002534/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Lubrizol disaster – five years on

On 26 September 2019, a fire broke out at the Lubrizol factory in Rouen, a site covered by Seveso. It burned 9 500 tonnes of chemicals and was a major industrial accident.

Analysis of the safety data sheets revealed that some carcinogenic substances were marked as being ‘safe’, while other substances did not comply with the standards of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).

A proper inspection would have resulted in these irregularities being reported. This apparent negligence infringes Article 20(1) of the Seveso III Directive, which states that ‘Member States shall ensure that the competent authorities establish a system of inspections’.

The combustion of the chemicals has led to diseases and environmental damage. To date, however, Lubrizol has not paid any compensation to those affected by this industrial disaster, despite the high remediation and care costs. This contravenes the ‘polluter pays’ principle laid down in Article 191 TFEU.

1. What steps will the Commission take when a state does not properly supervise the inspection system?
2. How does the Commission ensure that the ‘polluter pays’ principle is applied effectively?

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