

**Question for written answer E-015259/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Jean-François Jalkh (ENF)**

Subject: Brazil's tidal wave of pollution as set against climate change

On 5 November 2015, two mining dams burst in Brazil, spilling thousands of cubic metres of toxic mud into the country's fifth largest river. The 60-million-litre tide of iron-ore tailings, a mix of various pollutants, was similar to the toxic red mud spill in Hungary in 2010 but on a vastly greater scale.

This was clearly a man-made environmental disaster, and it raises disturbing questions about the viability of our economic system itself. The fact that human error caused the pollution makes it, in my view, all the more urgent to find a political response.

1. Does the Commission not consider that pollution on a scale such as this is our most pressing environmental problem, necessarily ranking above climate-change issues?
2. With COP21 upon us, ought we not to prioritise the environmental problems we face, and relegate climate change to second place?