

FORM FOR TABLING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

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To the: COUNCIL   
 COMMISSION

ORAL QUESTIONS	WRITTEN QUESTIONS
Oral Question with debate (Rule 108) <input type="checkbox"/> Question Time (Rule 109) <input type="checkbox"/>	Written Question (Rule 110) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority Written Question (Rule 110 (4)) <input type="checkbox"/>

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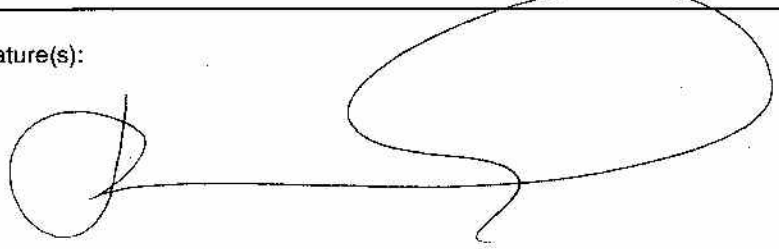
SUBJECT: (please specify) LEAD POISONING IN REFUGEE CAMPS IN KOSOVO

TEXT:

Since November 1999 150 Roma families from Mitrovica have been living as refugees in camps at Cesmin Lug and Osterode, placed there by the UN. The siting of these camps has exposed the families to acute lead poisoning, since they are close to the tailing stands of the Trepca lead mines.

A sequence of blood tests shows lead levels in the families reaching more than 65 micrograms/decilitre. Irreversible brain damage normally starts at 10 micrograms/decilitre particularly in children under the age of six. Further consequences are tracked in 77 early deaths and many miscarriages, together with other clear symptoms of lead poisoning.

Since early assurances by the UN to the families that their stay in this dangerous environment would be limited to 45 days and as various NGO promises of help have also been unfulfilled, will the Council of Ministers use its authority and influence to save these families from further damage?

Signature(s):  Date: 11/11/08