

Question for written answer E-015135/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Rosa D'Amato (EFDD)

Subject: Environmental problems in the municipality of Lizzano (Taranto)

The municipality of Lizzano (Taranto) has two significant environmental problems relating to the Vergine landfill site and the local wastewater treatment plant.

In April 2015 the Integrated Environmental Authorisation (IEA) was withdrawn from this landfill due to a lack of financial guarantees, but local residents are being adversely affected by the poor management of the site (odour emissions) and the potential contamination of the groundwater (leachate production) since the site has been abandoned.

In June 2015, tests conducted by *Goletta Verde* defined the sample taken at the mouth of the River Ostone in Marina di Lizzano, near the sewage treatment plant discharge outlet, as 'heavily polluted'.

According to a local paediatrician, 'some unusual diseases have been found in children, which could be linked to improper management of the Vergine landfill. There have been several cases of congenital hypothyroidism and respiratory diseases in children under the age of five. The data from the municipality of Lizzano would appear to match data relating to children living near the Ilva factory in Taranto.'

Can the Commission therefore say:

- whether the existence of financial guarantees is a vital prerequisite for an IEA;
- whether Directives 91/271/EEC, 2004/35/EC and 2010/75/EU have been infringed;
- whether, with reference to the answer given to Question E-010095/2014, it has ascertained the eligibility of the expenditure of the ERDF co-funded project in question?