

Question for written answer E-015945/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Rosa D'Amato (EFDD)

Subject: Environmental pollution produced by the petrochemical complex at Brindisi

In the city of Brindisi, in Italy's Puglia region, there is a petrochemical complex comprising plants owned by several different companies, including Versalis, the chemical subsidiary of Italian energy multinational Eni.

For months machinery in the Versalis plant has been malfunctioning, evidenced by the flare stacks being called into operation and billowing clouds of smoke visible from kilometres away. Despite investments in software and technology by the company, these faults have caused PM 10 and PM 2.5 emissions to exceed target levels.

From 2006 to 2011, according to health data issued by the authorities, the local area has seen figures in excess of the regional average for several cancerous conditions, as well as for cardiovascular and respiratory disorders, especially those of a chronic nature.

The Commission has not been notified about events classified as 'accidents' or 'near misses', as required by Directive 2012/18/EU or 96/82/EC.

Eni has indicated its intention to sell a majority stake in its subsidiary Versalis, turning it into a joint venture. This would release the energy giant from the obligation to invest in the characterisation and remediation of the industrial area, such procedures being vital to protect the health of local residents.

1. Can the Commission indicate whether Directives 2001/80/EC, 2008/50/EC, 2008/98/EC and 2012/18/EU are being correctly applied?
2. How does it intend to control emissions of chemicals from petrochemical plants, given the high loss of human life?