

**Question for written answer E-004689/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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and Fabio Massimo Castaldo (EFDD)**

Subject: Use of FIO funding for the Marsciano municipal biodigester

The biodigester in the municipality of Marsciano began operating in 1987 (over the years the plant was managed by several companies, including SIA S.p.A., partly owned by GESENU S.p.A., a company in which the municipality of Perugia holds a stake). The process involved the recovery of livestock manure, which was used to produce biogas; ITL 11 billion in funding was granted under the FIO (Investment and Employment Fund) in 1983.

In 2009 the Umbria regional environment agency (ARPA) and the Carabinieri environment squad (NOE) ordered that the plant be shut down because of the environmental pollution (foul-smelling fumes, storage lagoons never emptied, unlawful spreading of effluent, polluted wells, etc.) and public health hazards.

The use of EU funds for the benefit of companies that do not comply with environmental protection legislation could constitute a form of unfair competition at the expense of other EU companies which obey the laws intended to protect natural resources.

To finance the environmental remediation, Umbria Region has earmarked a further EUR 900 000.

Is the Commission aware of the above facts?

In addition, did the local authorities involved use the FIO funding in accordance with the relevant European legislation?

Lastly, does the EUR 900 000 allocated by Umbria Region include any EU funding? If so, is its use permitted under European legislation and the rules on competition?