

**Question for written answer E-005322/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Rosa D'Amato (EFDD)**

Subject: Martina Franca sewage treatment plant

In February 2016, the Martina Franca plant, which is used for the final treatment of sewage, together with around 200 metres of National Road 172, was placed under the control of the authorities, since the natural sink hole used by it was no longer able to absorb incoming effluent, resulting in the formation of a malodorous quagmire.

In the course of its investigations, the Public Prosecutor's Office established that the sewage treatment plant was inadequate to the task, with the result that the effluent was contaminating wells up to one kilometre away.

The 'Acquedotto Pugliese' water utility has submitted a project for drainage channels to deal with run-off from the sewage treatment plant situated in the Pastore district. However, they would be unable to absorb current volumes of effluent and the necessary works would result in increasing disruption of the hydrogeological balance, in addition to the possible adverse effects on the environment and public health.

A number of alternative projects put forward and declared subject to an environmental impact assessment have not to date been authorised.

In view of this:

- Does the Commission consider that the project should be made subject to an environmental impact assessment under Directive 2011/92/UE?
- Will it verify whether the Martina Franca sewage treatment plant and the 'Acquedotto Pugliese' project comply with Articles 4 and 10 respectively of Directive 91/271/EEC?