

**Question for written answer E-005846/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Sicily: continued groundwater contamination and ineffectiveness of emergency safety procedures in areas located in sites of national interest (SIN)

The reports drawn up by the operators of the Esso and Sasol plants in Augusta, the Eni Versalis plant and the ISAB South plant in Priolo, which have been submitted to the inspection authorities and published on the Environment Ministry website, give a disturbing picture of the general situation regarding groundwater contamination in the areas where the plants are operating.

According to the most recent analyses carried out by these operators for 2017, the threshold concentration levels for metals, aromatic organic compounds, hydrocarbons and carcinogenic chlorinated aliphatic compounds have been exceeded, as in previous years, which is indicative of recurrent contamination, raising concerns about the effectiveness of emergency safety procedures for areas situated in sites of national interest.

In view of this, can the Commission provide the following information:

- In view of the contamination detected in these areas, are health risk analyses being carried out in respect of each?
- Does it have information regarding the soil characteristics in the piezometric network in which groundwater pollution has been detected?
- Are the contamination levels detected attributable to the ineffectiveness of the 'emergency safety' procedures, to operations causing pollution or a combination of both?