

**Question for written answer E-004681/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Dario Tamburrano (EFDD)

Subject: Geothermal energy and mercury emissions: the figures from Italy

Italy has provided figures this year on mercury emissions from the generation of geothermal energy in Tuscany, as required by the NEC Directive. The emissions reported in 2014, 2015 and 2016 were 2.05, 0.98 and 0.39 tonnes, respectively.

ARPAT (the regional agency for environmental protection in Tuscany) constitutes the regional branch¹ of the national information system tasked with producing an emissions inventory².

The ARPAT report on the monitoring of emissions from geothermal power plants claims that, since April 2015, AMIS (mercury and hydrogen sulfide abatement) filters have been treating the mercury from the six power plants which previously lacked them³. According to ARPAT, AMIS filters treat up to 98% of the mercury.

ARPAT did not inspect the six power plants in question in either 2015 or 2016⁴. The records kept by the Tuscany Region, authorising the commissioning of 4 of the 6 AMIS filters^{5 6 7 8}, state that they were completed in 2017: how could they have been in operation in 2015? Authorisation has still not been granted for two filters.

In light of the response to question P-006705/2017, can the Commission answer the following questions:

- 1) Does it believe that there is a problem of communication, on the part of Italy, of data regarding the mercury emitted by geothermal power plants?
- 2) Does it intend to analyse this issue and/or bring up the case with Italy?

¹ <http://sira.arp.at.toscana.it/sira/approfondimenti.php>

² <http://www.sinanet.isprambiente.it/it/rete-sinanet>

³ <http://www.arp.at.toscana.it/documentazione/report/report-geotermia/monitoraggio-delle-aree-geotermiche-toscane-anno-2015>: pages 3, 9 and 10

⁴ <http://www.arp.at.toscana.it/documentazione/report/report-geotermia/monitoraggio-delle-aree-geotermiche-toscane-anno-2016>

⁵ <http://www.regione.toscana.it/bancadati/atti/?redirect=/bancadati/atti/DettaglioAttiD.xml%3fcodprat=2017AD00000021709>

⁶ <http://www.regione.toscana.it/bancadati/atti/?redirect=/bancadati/atti/DettaglioAttiD.xml%3fcodprat=2017AD00000021710>

⁷ <http://www.regione.toscana.it/bancadati/atti/?redirect=/bancadati/atti/DettaglioAttiD.xml%3fcodprat=2017AD00000021711>

⁸ <http://www.regione.toscana.it/bancadati/atti/?redirect=/bancadati/atti/DettaglioAttiD.xml%3fcodprat=2018AD00000003324>