

**Question for written answer P-002638/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Dario Tamburrano (EFDD) and Laura Agea (EFDD)**

Subject: Drinking water and geothermal energy in Amiata

The effects of geothermal activities on Monte Amiata on the freshwater aquifer are set out in the article available at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0377027315002620> and in the research<sup>1</sup> commissioned by Tuscany Region: geothermal activity sends pollutants that are present in the geothermal fluids up towards the freshwater aquifer, and removes water from the Fiora springs. These springs are drawn upon by the Fiora aqueduct, which supplies 700 000 users.

Although it challenges these conclusions, the study commissioned by the Tuscany Region<sup>2</sup> states (in Annex C1) that there has been a gradual increase in arsenic levels in at least one of the Fiora springs, and therefore in the aqueduct.

At some locations, the water supplied by the aqueduct already contains arsenic concentrations that are close to the maximum permitted. An increase in arsenic and a rise in pollutants represent a potential danger to human health.

The Drinking Water Directive lays down measures for water which, while not breaching the limits laid down, represents a potential danger to health. Italy does not appear to have taken any such measures, nor to have addressed the issue in the reports sent to the Commission up to 2013.

- With reference to the answer to question E-008184/2016, has the Commission assessed Italy's compliance with EU legislation in this field? If not, when does it intend to do so?
- Does the Commission intend to raise this matter with Italy? If so, when and how?

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<sup>1</sup>

<http://www.regione.toscana.it/documents/10180/726542/studio+definitivo+del+16+novembre+2006.pdf/ce3aa40e-a29c-4d89-a7eb-fbcebd271781>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.regione.toscana.it/documents/10180/726542/Studio+geostrutturale.pdf/63ecc29a-7f82-40b2-b610-cdfc7f17b562>