

**Question for written answer P-006705/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Geothermal power and mercury emissions

The EMEP-EEA Manual for compiling inventories of emissions under the LRTAP Convention stipulates that geothermal mercury emissions are to be listed in category 1.B.2.d<sup>1</sup>. Every year Italy puts 'NA' ('not applicable') for this category in its annual inventory.

Production of geothermal power in Italy – which only happens in Tuscany – entails extremely high mercury emissions. The most recent calculations by Tuscany's regional environmental agency ARPAT are for 2007: 1 494 tonnes<sup>2</sup>, i.e. 13.8 % of the total mercury emissions declared that year in Italy's inventory.

Applying the same emission factor to production of geothermal power in 2015<sup>3</sup> would produce a figure of 1 659 tonnes for mercury emissions in 2015, which would equate to 20.6 % of the emissions declared in Italy's inventory.

Italy is fully entitled not to report its geothermal mercury emissions in the LRTAP inventory. Could the Commission explain why, therefore, the EMEP and the EEA have compiled a Manual which, however, stipulates their declaration? Does it view as reliable an inventory from which such significant emission levels are missing?

Italy is instead required to report its geothermal mercury emissions in the LRTAP3 inventory. What steps will the Commission take to remedy this situation?

Supporter<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/emep-eea-guidebook-2016/part-b-sectoral-guidance-chapters/1-energy/1-b-fugitives/1-b-2-d-other>

<sup>2</sup> [http://servizi2.regione.toscana.it/aria/img/getfile\\_img1.php?id=19932](http://servizi2.regione.toscana.it/aria/img/getfile_img1.php?id=19932)

<sup>3</sup> 6 185 GWh as opposed to 5 569 GWh in 2007; see [http://www.gse.it/\\_layouts/GSE\\_Portal2011.Structures/GSEPortal2011\\_FileDownload.aspx?FileUrl=http://www.gse.it/it/Dati%20e%20Bilanci/GSE\\_Documenti%20fosservatorio+statistico%2fRapporto+statistico+GSE++2015.pdf&SiteUrl=http://www.gse.it/it/Dati%20e%20Bilanci/](http://www.gse.it/_layouts/GSE_Portal2011.Structures/GSEPortal2011_FileDownload.aspx?FileUrl=http://www.gse.it/it/Dati%20e%20Bilanci/GSE_Documenti%20fosservatorio+statistico%2fRapporto+statistico+GSE++2015.pdf&SiteUrl=http://www.gse.it/it/Dati%20e%20Bilanci/)

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