



19.12.2018

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition No 0916/2017 by Marco Arietti (Italian) on the distress caused to residents in the north of Turin by various environmental problems

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner complains about the problem of toxic fumes and emissions which have ravaged the north of Turin for many years. He highlights a number of environmental problems in this area: illegally dumped waste which has been set on fire, problems caused by domestic heating in slums (and in the Roma camps), heavy road traffic, dumping of urban and industrial waste, and composting plants. He is concerned about the risk to residents' health, mainly due to the burning of waste and possible emissions of carcinogenic substances. He calls on the European institutions to take action, as he has not achieved any tangible results in recent years from the Italian authorities.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 9 January 2018. Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 29 June 2018

The Commission is aware of the poor air quality in Northern Italy and of its implications for the human health. The air quality in Italy is the subject of two ongoing infringement procedures, one concerning the levels of PM₁₀, and the other the levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). In the framework of these pending infringement procedures, the Commission is closely monitoring the situation, especially as regards the exceedance of the daily limit values for PM₁₀ in several Italian regions. In this respect, the Piedmont Region is one of the worst performing Regions.

With regard to the toxic fires and to the emissions caused by the presence of the slum, they constitute an issue of public order and consequently fall under the competence of the national

authorities.

Conclusion

The Commission will take the necessary steps to enhance the air quality in Italy in the framework of the ongoing infringement procedures.

The problems raised by the petitioner relating to the presence of the Roma camps do not fall under the remit of the Commission and should be tackled by the national authorities.

4. Commission reply REV I, received on 19 December 2018

The Region of Piedmont is located in the Po' Valley, one of the most problematic areas in Italy as far as the air quality is concerned. In this respect, two infringement procedures have been opened against Italy for the violation of the EU legislation on air quality.

In the infringement procedures concerning the levels of PM₁₀, including the Region Piedmont, Italy has been already referred to the Court of Justice of the European Union. In the other ongoing infringement procedure, the Commission is closely monitoring the levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), in order to decide which steps should be taken.

Conclusion

In the framework of the ongoing infringement procedures, the Commission follows the developments in the air quality in Italy with the aim to improve the quality of the air and to reduce the negative effects that breathing polluted air can cause to human health.

As to the problems caused by the burning of waste and the toxic emissions in the Roma camp in Turin, the Commission reiterates what was already stated in the previous communication, namely that this is a matter of public order, therefore of competence of the national authorities.