

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0587/02

by Guido Bodrato (PPE-DE), Massimo Carraro (PSE) and Monica Frassoni (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Failure to carry out environmental impact assessment

Article 27 of the Veneto regional law No 10/99 has been ruled invalid on the grounds of incompatibility with the EU principles concerning environmental impact assessment (Commission Directive 85/337/EEC¹), in a reasoned opinion of 3 August 2000 concerning breaches of Community environmental legislation by regional authorities, including the Italian region of Veneto. However, under the above law the Veneto region has authorised yet another category 2B discharge of woodpulp, considered as perishable waste, and proposes to store this waste overground in the municipality of Silea (Treviso province), without having carried out a prior environmental impact assessment and in breach of the preventive and precautionary principle laid down in the Single European Act of 1986 and incorporated in Italy by Law 909/1986.

This discharge affects the route of the Via Claudia Augusta, the road which linked ancient Rome with northern Europe and is therefore of Community interest, as well as the adjoining Parco del Sile. Operations are continuing despite the fragility of the ground waters and the hydro-geological system.

In view of the contradiction between Article 1 of regional law No 14 of 8 May 1989 and the Aarhus Convention of 25 June 1998, as incorporated in Italy by the law of 16 March 2001, and the consequent impossibility of any legal action by citizens, can the Commission state whether the Veneto region is in any instances in breach of Community principles and indicate what preventive measures it intends to adopt to obtain an immediate suspension of operations?

¹ OJ L 175, 5.7.1985, p. 40