

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1296/04
by Antonio Di Pietro (ELDR)
to the Commission

Subject: Construction of a power station at Valle del Biferno

A combined-cycle power station is being built at Valle del Biferno near the town of Termoli in Italy.

Geological studies made available to national consumer associations such as Codacons and farmers associations (Coldiretti) have unequivocally condemned the chosen site as totally unsuitable for a facility of this kind as Valle del Biferno, like the whole of Molise, has a high risk of earthquakes and flooding.

Given the nature of the facility, any flood or earthquake would have very serious consequences for the safety of the local population, and for the already precarious economy of the area, which relies on farming and tourism in equal measure.

These conclusions are confirmed by the fact that many flash floods have occurred in the area, most recently the disastrous floods in January 2003, which caused very extensive damage, as a result of which the European Commission itself intervened to grant substantial funds.

In the light of these considerations, does the Commission not consider that the Italian authorities responsible should immediately stop building work on the power station in order to carry out a thorough review, on the basis of existing studies, of the advisability of locating a plant of this kind in such a high risk area when it is clearly at odds with the farming and tourist activities that have developed there?