

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2647/08

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to the Commission

Subject: Requisitioning of a waste water purification plant at Coda di Volpe in order to construct a storage facility for polluting waste bales

In late February 2008, the Italian Government's Commissioner for the Waste Emergency in Campania, Dr Gianni De Gennaro, ordered that the waste water purification plant at Coda di Volpe near Eboli in the Province of Salerno, which was not yet operational but was approaching completion thanks to European funding, should be requisitioned with a view to the construction of a storage site for polluting packaged waste (bales). That facility is located close to the River Sele and the coast in a zone that is, on the one hand, characterised by intensive farming and a superficial water table, and on the other is predominantly a tourist area. The zone in question also forms part of Site of Community Interest No 8050010 and is in a flood plain, which is why Article 41(e) of the implementing rules for the sub-plan drawn up by the Authority for the Inter-regional Sele River Basin explicitly prohibits the installation of waste disposal plants (including tips and the open-air storage of any type of materials or waste). Were the River Sele to flood, as it regularly does, in the zone in question, this would result in waste being dispersed into the sea and the surrounding area, causing incalculable damage.

Since these environmental factors were in no way taken into account when the plant was requisitioned, in that no environmental impact assessment was made, does the Commission not consider that requisitioning to be illegitimate and illegal?

Does it not feel that the Commissioner for the Waste Emergency should consider the alternative sites already proposed, which are more suitable from an environmental viewpoint?

Will the Commission take action to preserve a vital environmental and economic zone in an area already affected by a serious crisis in the agri-food sector?