

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6147/08
by Marco Rizzo (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: SAMA Sustinente

The company SAMA, from Sustinente (Mantua), which produces chipboard furniture for IKEA, amongst others, has begun to experiment with the combustion of WDF and WDF-Q, or in other words normal and high quantities of waste-derived fuel. That combustion takes place at three different facilities in the province of Mantua, and more precisely in the Destra/Secchia area, which is already extremely exposed to environmental pollution. While the previous Provincial Council granted the company authorisation to use the combustion process, the current Council has unanimously adopted a vote of no confidence as regards that activity. The problem, however, is that SAMA is continuing to burn WDF, which is a serious matter as the requisite environmental impact assessments have not been made and, so far, there has been no real monitoring of the harmful emissions generated by the combustion process.

SAMA is not only carrying on with its unrestrained combustion activities, but also has internal control units for the monitoring of harmful emissions, meaning that it has a monopoly of sorts on monitoring the levels of environmental pollution generated by the combustion process, when that monitoring should in fact be external.

Pending the adoption of the new provincial waste plan, it has been moved that those incineration activities be suspended and that stricter checks be conducted by ARCA, with possible endorsement by a technical guarantor, in order to safeguard the state of health of the area and its inhabitants.

1. Does the Commission not consider these events to contain the seeds of a violation of Community law in the field of public health and environmental protection?