

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3203/09  
by Vittorio Agnoletto (GUE/NGL)  
to the Commission

Subject: Project concerning a new landfill site for non-hazardous waste containing asbestos (to be created in the municipality of Cappella Cantone - Località Cascina Retorto, in the province of Cremona)

The company 'Cavenord' has submitted a project to the Lombardy Region with a view to converting the former Retorto quarry in the municipality of Cappella Cantone into a landfill site in which to deposit waste containing asbestos, with an estimated capacity of 261 000 cubic metres. The Region will have to consider the project, carry out an environmental impact assessment and verify whether it is consistent with the current Regional Plan, which makes no provision for asbestos dumps in the Cremona province. The provincial waste plan considers it inadvisable to build such a site owing to the already high environmental pressure in the territory, given that 500 m away from the site in question there is a municipal solid waste dump, and a second, 500 000 cubic metre dump for inert waste is going to be extended for the purpose of becoming a slag dump.

The provincial waste management plan estimates that the total production of waste containing asbestos between 2000 and 2005 was around 2 200 tonnes per year and that the productive potential of waste containing asbestos in the Cremona area is some 25-30 thousand cubic metres; there is therefore the risk that waste containing asbestos from areas very far from where it was produced will be disposed of in the landfill site.

The area is close to elements of hydraulic criticality: in 2007 the Riororto stream flooded the area of the future landfill site and there are surface aquifers which feed the Riororto and Roggia Montalbana streams, which irrigate an agri-food area in which maize for dairy cows is grown and in which there are two of the largest agri-food firms – the Soresinese Dairy and the cereal multinational *Lameri*.

The site is not sufficiently far from surrounding residential areas, which are between 1 and 2.5 km away; the air transport of the fibres would thus have a considerable, and even dangerous, impact on the health of citizens.

These aspects should prevent such a landfill site from being built, under Directive 1999/31/EC<sup>1</sup> of 26 April 1999; moreover, if the categories of waste containing asbestos were the following: 060701, 160212, 170601 or 170702 (Decision 2000/532/EC<sup>2</sup> of 3 May 2000), they would have to be considered hazardous waste and would thus have to be disposed of differently.

In the light of the above, could the Commission clarify how it intends to check that the Lombardy Region scrutinises the Cavenord project – which is such a delicate issue in terms of its impact on human health – whilst respecting the competences and opinions already expressed by the local authorities and with a view to complying with Directive 2008/98/EC<sup>3</sup> of 19 November 2008?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 182, 16.7.1999, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 226, 6.9.2000, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 312, 22.11.2008, p. 3.