

**Question for written answer E-000838/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Sergio Berlato (PPE)

Subject: Illegal dumping of toxic waste near the high-speed railway line between Lyon and Trieste

An inquiry has been opened by the Italian Public Prosecutors of Brescia and Treviso into the reality of illegal toxic waste dumping near a number of important transport routes in Italy. Among the routes involved are the A4 motorway and the Milan-Venice railway line, the latter forming part of the high-speed railway line along Pan-European transport corridor V (Lyon-Treviso). Huge quantities of hazardous waste containing nickel, hexavalent chromium and arsenic (substances which are highly damaging to both human health and the surrounding environment) were found near Brescia, following analysis of soil samples taken from railway construction sites. The director of the Regional Environmental Protection Agency in Brescia reported that the concentration of chromium present in the subsoil was 1 400 times the permitted limit.

1. That being said, is the Commission aware of the facts detailed above?
2. Can it intervene in order to ensure that European funds are being used correctly and legally, given that the construction sites involved are located on a section of Pan-European transport corridor V?
3. With regard to public health and environmental protection, can it work together with the Italian authorities to ensure the removal of all hazardous substances?