

**Question for written answer E-001280/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Aldo Patriciello (PPE)**

Subject: Soil contamination by toxic industrial waste in Calabria

Since 2001, large tracts of land around the city of Crotona have been undergoing reclamation in response to the findings of a parliamentary committee of inquiry into illegal waste disposal following the discovery of toxic industrial waste. The greatest environmental damage has been caused by three principal activities in the area, including the production for over 70 years by what was previously the Pertusola plant of zinc, sulphuric acid and cadmium, together with other highly toxic substances found in cupola furnace residue. A number of these toxic substances, including catalysed hydraulic conglomerates, cadmium and cupola furnace residues, have been used for public works, infrastructures and schools thereby creating a public health hazard for local residents.

An investigation has revealed that this waste is indeed particularly hazardous, prompting special containment measures in 18 urban districts in Crotona, Cutro and Isola di Capo Rizzuto, as well as bringing to light to light high levels of soil and groundwater contamination, chiefly by heavy metals. Despite this, some of the contaminated land is still being used for agriculture, stockbreeding and pasture for animals intended for slaughter.

The incidence of tumours and related illnesses in this area has rapidly increased to a level 15-20% above the average for Italy, as confirmed by the World Health Organisation, which has indicated that such health problems, in particular pulmonary tumours, are attributable to local industrial activity.

No specific action has yet been taken to implement the containment plan and rehabilitation measures are still in the start-up phase.

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission aware of this situation and does it consider that the Italian authorities have been guilty of negligence in implementing EU environmental policies?
2. Have programmes been drawn up and European funding earmarked for reclamation of the contaminated areas for the period 2014-2020, in addition to the regional development and cohesion funds intended for major infrastructural works?