

**Question for written answer E-002410/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)**

**Subject:** Presence of chromium in the water table under the disused Carnielli industrial estate at Vittorio Veneto (Treviso)

Within the territory of the municipality of Vittorio Veneto (Treviso) is a disused industrial estate by the name of Carnielli. The area, located in the town centre, is affected by chromium contamination of the soil and the underlying water table, left over from the discontinued activity of cycle processing, and is near the River Meschio, an area protected as an SCI (Site of Community Interest) under project 'Rete Natura 2000'<sup>1</sup>.

For this reason, in its opinion on the integrated programme of planning, building and environmental redevelopment of the area in question, the Veneto Region imposed, among other things, a ban on dispersion in the subsoil of rainwater and run-off, and laid down that these should be collected and channelled into the public sewerage system and taken from there to be treated, in observance of the principal of precaution.

However, according to the local press, the redevelopment of the area is currently under threat due to the bankruptcy of the company which was to carry it out, whereas the contaminated water table is no longer being continuously monitored. Also, the exceptional rainfall of recent weeks has notably worsened the situation. Indeed, the rise of the water table has meant that water filters through the contaminated soil removing the chromium and carrying it south. Traces of this contamination can indeed now be found in the neighbouring municipality of San Vendemiano (Treviso), as reported again by the local press, which quotes in this respect a survey carried out by the Department of Geology at Padua University<sup>2</sup>. The former Mayor of the town, in particular, has recently admitted that the situation is to be considered 'out of control' at this stage<sup>3</sup>. The Commission is reminded that on 27.01.2014 the undersigned submitted question No E-000789/14 on chromium contamination of the bed of the River Chiampo in Vicenza Province.

In view of all the above, can the Commission state:

1. whether it is aware of the chromium contamination of the soil and water table underlying the former industrial estate;
2. whether it considers that such delays in monitoring the environmental contamination and making good the soil and water table may be contrary to the obligation to prevent deterioration and to achieve a good status of water imposed on Member States by 'Waters' Directive 2000/60/EC;
3. what initiatives does it intend to undertake in this respect?

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<sup>1</sup> SCI IT 3240032 'River Meschio', under 'Habitat' Directive 92/43/EC

<sup>2</sup> Cf. <http://tribunatreviso.gelocal.it/cronaca/2013/05/22/news/all-ex-carnielli-torna-l-incubo-cromo-1.7115119>

<sup>3</sup> Cf. <http://tribunatreviso.gelocal.it/cronaca/2014/02/02/news/cromo-all-ex-carnielli-e-fuori-controllo-1.8584675>