

**Question for written answer E-002364/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Lagrimaro Canal

As part of an investigation being led by the Foggia Public Prosecutor, as a preventative measure the environmental arm of the Bari police authority recently cordoned off the entire length of the Lagrimaro Canal.

The Lagrimaro runs for some 2 km before entering the Giardino Canal, which in turns empties into the Adriatic at the Foce Aloisa in the territory of Zapponeta in the protected Capitanata wetlands area, SAC IT9110005 in the Natura 2000 Network.

The investigators claim that over time this water course has become an illegal rubbish dump where unknown local businesses have been depositing hazardous waste high in aluminium, nickel and chromium, with the risk that these elements could then be carried into the sea.

This canal was originally dug to avoid stagnant rainwater collecting in the fields, but since the local planners gave the green light for further industrial expansion it has instead become a run-off channel for pollutants.

In view of this:

- 1) Does the Commission not agree that the polluted state of the Lagrimaro Canal could pose a serious threat to SAC IT9110005 (Article 3 of Directive 92/43/EEC)?
- 2) Would it agree that the Italian authorities are not ensuring adequate supervision of the conservation status of SAC IT9110005 (Art. 11 of Directive 92/43/EEC)?
- 3) Can it tell us what measures the Member State can take to ensure the protection of SAC IT9110005?