

Question for written answer E-002817/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Ignazio Corrao (NI)

Subject: Spillage of unidentified substances, dying fish in the Sicilian rivers and the failure to investigate the situation and keep citizens informed

According to information gathered by Goletta Verde, a campaign by environmental association Legambiente pushing for the observation of waters and coastal areas, the Sicilian sea has been at a high level of risk for some time.

Recently, pollution incidents and fish deaths in rivers and estuaries have been more frequent than ever. In April 2019, there was a spill into the Gela river, probably involving waste water leakages. In August 2019, a huge number of fish were found dead in the estuary of the river Salso, in Licata. In September 2019, the river Gela and the stretch of sea it flows into turned red. Environmental associations and citizens have complained that the relevant authorities have given no official information on the nature of the substances involved.

The estuaries should be inspected regularly, as is required under the recovery plan and the Natura 2000 site management plan.

Can the Commission say:

- Is it aware of the events and oversights listed above?
- How much has Italy paid so far in penalties for failing to purify waste water in Sicily?