

Question for written answer E-002819/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Ignazio Corrao (NI)

Subject: Information on the link between disused mines and illness in Agrigento and Caltanissetta

A survey of disused mines conducted by APAT (now ISPRA) has established that there are 761 brownfield sites in Sicily, which is more than in any other Italian region.

Under Article 20 of Legislative Decree No 117/08, the national inventory must contain a list of closed or abandoned mines and waste storage facilities where these have 'serious negative effects on the environment or which, in the short or medium term, are liable to pose a serious threat to human health and/or the environment'.

There are 209 such hazardous sites, which are a public health risk, in Sicily, and more particularly in the province of Agrigento.

In recent years, the inhabitants of Agrigento and Caltanissetta have witnessed an increase in cancer and genetic diseases in many towns and villages in the mining area.

Can the Commission state:

- whether it is aware of the impact of disused mines in Sicily on health and the environment;
- which EU funding and instruments would be available to clean up those facilities;
- what action it plans to take to clean up former mining areas?