

**Question for written answer E-003919/2020**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Ignazio Corrao (NI)**

**Subject:** Remediation of site of national interest (SNI) in Gela, and regeneration of local area

Gela is on the list of industrial areas at high risk in environmental terms. The contamination found in soils, groundwater and on beaches is of great concern, due to the presence of metals (arsenic, mercury), carcinogenic chlorinated aliphatic compounds and heavy hydrocarbons, which are having an impact on the health of the population and on marine organisms.

Despite the environmental and health damage caused by the petrochemical industry, in its answer to question E-002341-19 the Commission confirms that Directive 2004/35/EC on environmental liability is not applicable, as the damage was caused before 2007.

The clean-up is currently under way, but work is still going very slowly, especially as regards the identification of those responsible for the contamination <sup>1</sup>.

In addition to the irreversible damage caused by the failure to clean up the area, Gela continues to be one of the most economically under-developed parts of Italy. Action therefore needs to be taken to ensure that EU citizens living in that area have the resources to revive the local social and economic fabric.

Can the Commission say:

1. whether it will take action with a view to amending Directive 2004/35/EC;
2. how it intends to ensure the development of the special economic zones that are currently a health risk due to the failure to remediate them?

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<sup>1</sup> See 'Lo stato dell'arte dei procedimenti di bonifica nel SIN di Gela ('Latest developments in the Gela SNI remediation procedures'). Marcello Farina (ARPA Sicily), Roberto Mazzitelli (ISPRA, Department for Italian Geological Service)' 19 June 2020.