

**Question for written answer E-004425/2020  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Laura Ferrara (NI)**

**Subject:** Waste water treatment in Calabria

At the end of a complex investigation into environmental offences in Calabria, many penalties have been imposed in recent weeks for discharge of waste in quantities in excess of the legally permitted thresholds and for failure to obtain the licences required.

During the operation, 15 seizures were effected relating to treatment plants and areas scarred by pollution from various sources. The following was seized in particular: 420 cubic metres of waste from the waste water treatment cycle (sewage sludge and sand); an underground pipe and three catch basins, the waters from which are channelled into a stream protected by a landscape preservation order; approximately two kilometres of the bed of streams polluted by the discharge of poorly treated waste water.

As the Minister for the Environment noted recently at a hearing on waste water management before the 'Ecomafie' Bicameral Committee dealing with environmental damage linked to organised crime, of the 900 Italian agglomerations cited in infringement procedures for critical failings in waste water treatment systems, 188 are in Calabria.

In light of the above:

1. Will the Commission consider conducting on-site inspections of Calabria's waste water treatment system?
2. Does it know whether a programme has been put in place in Calabria to improve the efficiency of the waste water treatment systems cited in infringement procedure 2017/2181?
3. What further steps will it take to press for the resolution of these age-old critical failings?