

**Question for written answer E-000611/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Solvay plant in Rosignano (Livorno) and the risk of greenwashing

Over the past 20 years, Solvay has produced soda carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, chlorine, caustic soda, chloromethanes and hydrogen peroxide at its Rosignano plant (Livorno). According to a 1999 UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) report, the Rosignano Solvay site was one of the most polluted in Italy, and among the country's top 15 pollution hotspots¹, having spilled more than 400 tonnes of mercury² into the sea – as confirmed by tests carried out by the authorities.

Despite that, as highlighted in a recent article in the Financial Times³, Solvay has received positive assessments from several agencies which take environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into account when rating companies. Accordingly, the lack of specific rules on corporate environmental reporting casts doubt on the accuracy and comparability of the information provided by companies and is directly linked to the risk of greenwashing.

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission aware of any infringements of Directive 2000/60/EC in the case of Solvay in Rosignano?
2. Will it propose a supervisory system at EU level for providers of ESG data and ratings, and what is it doing to promote the adoption of a mandatory EU information standard for the reporting of a company's non-financial impacts?

¹ Page 106 of the report: see <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/535>

² http://banchedati.camera.it/sindacatoispettivo_16/showXhtml.Asp?idAtto=29785&stile=6&highLight=1

³ <https://www.ft.com/content/fb129666-dc85-48ff-a9c8-3bfa87a715ca>