

**Question for written answer E-003212/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ignazio Corrao (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Extension of the Timpazzo municipal waste landfill in Gela, Sicily, environmental damage and EU infringements

The Region of Sicily intends to extend the Timpazzo (Gela) landfill in order to increase the amount of waste that can be delivered there from 450 to 900 tonnes per day. The 'Riserva Naturale del Biviere' (SCI, SPA, IBA) nature reserve has issued a negative opinion¹ and identified some environmental problems, but the Region's technical commission has nevertheless gone ahead with the project, ruling out an impact assessment.

The extension of the landfill is in breach of: the Region's waste plan, which prohibits any authorisation to extend landfills in Natura 2000 areas; the management plan for the ITA050012 site and the minimum conservation measures for Natura 2000 sites (Article 5 of Ministerial Decree of 17 October 2007).

The landfill has never implemented the rules² and no provision has been made for an integrated environmental permit (AIA)³ procedure for the current project. The assessment of environmental implications (known as VInCA) is inconsistent with Article 6 of Directive 92/43/EEC (2019/C 33/01) and does not take into account the new national guidelines⁴.

In the light of the above, can the Commission give its view on:

1. the failure to comply with the AIA 2013 rules with regard to the project in question;
2. the failure to conduct a VInCA upon receipt of a negative reasoned opinion from the nature reserve;
3. the practice of tacit consent in environmental matters.

¹ pursuant to Article 5 of Presidential Decree (DPR) 357/97 and subsequent amendments.

² AIA regulation No 2523 of 23/12/2013

³ (IED, Directive 2010/75/EU)

⁴ (Official Gazette No 303, 28.12.2019) further to the EU Pilot 6730/14 dispute