

**Question for written answer E-003377/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Pollution of Catania's coastline by waste and the lack of waste treatment. Inefficiency of the monitoring system

In recent weeks sewage and sludge have been reported in the waters off of Catania's 'La Playa' beach. The pollution of Catania's coastline by waste materials, including industrial waste, that end up in the sea has been going on for years. The lack of any proper waste treatment process just adds to the problem.

Following the results of tests by the bodies responsible and by the University of Catania, Catania's municipal council announced that there was no 'need for a ban on bathing or anything in particular'.

Italy leads Europe in terms of infringement procedures for its lack of sewers and purification plants, with fines of EUR 126 000 per day. The problem also exists in the north of Italy, in regions such as Lombardy (with 130 built-up areas in breach of regulations).

Although not yet the subject of infringement procedures, a large number of treatment plants are out of order at present (in the provinces of Trapani and Palermo for example), with their managers enjoying full impunity as the plants dump their waste in the sea.

Can the Commission clarify:

1. How does it view these continuous and ever more serious infringements of EU legislation on urban waste treatment in Sicily?
2. What representations will it make to the competent authorities to stop the situation growing any worse?

Supporter¹

¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE)