

**Question for written answer E-000698/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ignazio Corrao (Verts/ALE)

Subject: River pollution in Sicily: the example of the River Naro and the reuse of vegetation waters

Flowing through southern central Sicily, the River Naro (IT19RW06801) is one of the most polluted waterways in Europe. In 2016,¹ it was found to be 'at risk' and in a sub-sufficient ecological state, while precise data on its 'chemical status' was lacking.

In addition to waste being dumped illegally in the river, sludge and wastewater from neighbouring municipalities lacking proper water treatment facilities are still being discharged into the Naro². For example, the water treatment plant in Villaggio Mosè – which is now under sequestration – used to discharge untreated water.

Moreover, in certain periods of the year, vegetation waters from neighbouring olive presses are regularly tipped into the river. These are 200 times more polluting than sewage as they remove oxygen from the water, killing all life. This is happening in rivers up and down Sicily, including the Modone and Magazzolo.

The vegetation waters could become an economic resource if properly treated to extract the polyphenols, which are essential for fertilising agricultural land.

In the light of the above:

1. Has the Commission checked whether Sicily has met the environmental targets it set for the River Naro in relation to the Water Framework Directive?
2. How does it intend to promote the reuse of the polyphenols in vegetation waters?

Supporter³

¹ Sicily's 2015-2021 River Basin Management Plan

² Cases C-668/19 and C-251/17.

³ This question is supported by a Member other than the author: Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE)