

**Question for written answer E-001108/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ignazio Corrao (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Dumping of sewage sludge on farmland in Sardinia: evaluation of Directive 86/278/EEC ('Sewage Sludge Directive') and possible infringements thereof

Cagliari's ecological operations group NOE began an investigation recently into the treatment of sewage sludge produced in Sardinia and dumped on farmland in the provinces of Oristano, Nuoro, Sud Sardegna and the Metropolitan City of Cagliari, to ascertain whether the bodies responsible are monitoring use of this sludge in accordance with Directive 86/278/EEC¹. Sardinia's regional environmental protection agency (ARPAS) is also concerned by the investigation.

Directive 86/278/EEC governs the use of sewage sludge as fertiliser, setting limit values to prevent it having any detrimental effects on the quality of the soil, surface water or ground water, or to human health.

Under the Directive, national authorities are responsible for ensuring these limit values are respected. They must test the sludge and the soil, and keep up-to-date records of the quantities of sludge produced, the quantities used in farming, the sludge's composition and properties, and the methods used to spread it.

In its answer to question for written answer E-001732/2021² the Commission said that it would consider 'the need to revise the SSD', and that it is 'currently evaluating the directive in terms of its effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added-value.'

In light of the aforesaid evaluation:

1. Does the Commission consider it possible that Directive 86/278/EEC has been infringed in Sardinia?
2. What has its evaluation found?
3. What steps will it take to strengthen the Directive?

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/LSU/?uri=CELEX:31986L0278>

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-001732-ASW_EN.html