

**Question for written answer E-002016/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Decontamination by JSW of Piombino site of national interest

The Piombino steelworks are one of the most important steel hubs in Italy and in the EU. Since Lucchini's financial crisis and restructuring in 2005, the company's succession of owners have never revived production or addressed the serious problem of heavy metal, hydrocarbon and PCB pollution.

Extensive environmental degradation led the Ministry of the Environment and Land and Sea Protection to make an area covering almost 3 000 hectares (2 015 at sea and 930 on land) in Piombino a site of national interest (SNI) for decontamination purposes in 1998.

Following a number of changes of hands, in July 2018, JSW – part of the Indian group O.P. Jindal, took over the entire 560 hectare property, committing to revitalisation by means of a plan accepted by the Ministry of Economic Development and trade unions, and took charge of key safety and decontamination activities.

Although it came up with safety and decontamination plans, JSW never followed through with them.

In the light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of the serious state of environmental degradation in which the Piombino plant finds itself and the ensuing health risks?
2. Is it aware of JSW's systematic failure to clean up the site?
3. Will it take action to protect public health and the environment and, if so, what action will it take?