

**Question for written answer E-000821/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ignazio Corrao (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Natural environment of Sicily's Tonnarella Lagoon (in 'Gap B') damaged by a spillage of likely toxic sludge

Sicily's National Government Agency for Water Instability has been exempted from the applicable rules to temporarily place material excavated in its dredging works to restore the seabed at the port of Mazara del Vallo in marshland close to Tonnarella Lagoon (known as '*Colmata* (Gap) B').

Tonnarella Lagoon lies on the coast in between two Natura 2000 sites (ITA010006 and ITA010005) of exceptional environmental value which are also home to species protected by the Habitats and Birds Directives as well as Article 142 of Legislative Decree 2004/44.

The sludge, which has been found to be toxic by all previous analyses carried out by the National Research Council, has oozed into the lagoon and is visibly hazardous, containing as it does foreign bodies, viscous liquids, oil, rope, plastic, tyres, used gas cylinders and vehicle parts.

Does the Commission intend to:

1. ask the agency to ascertain, as a matter of urgency, the toxicity and mercury content of the excavated material?
2. check whether the storage of such sludge within an area of natural beauty is in breach of EU waste legislation?
3. call on the Member State to enforce Directive 35/2004/CEE, transposed by Legislative Decree 2006/152, Part VI (Environmental protection rules)?

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