

**Question for written answer E-001068/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ignazio Corrao (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Red poison flowing in the Irvi River from Ingurtosu towards the sea at Piscinas beach (Sardinia)

In the last few days, Piscinas beach – one of nature’s gems in the south of Sardinia – has taken centre stage in an environmental disaster. The Irvi River, which leads to the beach, has been stained red by the presence of cadmium, lead and zinc: heavy metals from the mining area that closed in 1991. A number of scientific analyses carried out by the Sardinian environmental protection agency and the National Institute of Health have confirmed the presence of these metals¹.

The Piscinas area has two sites of Community importance² supported under Directive 92/43/EEC. Alarming, although the Sardinian authorities have planned clean-up measures and funded a few projects, including some drawing on national development and cohesion funds (FSC), regional operating programme (ROP)* and LIFE funds³, what we are seeing is the steady contamination of the soil and aquifers.

What is more, the dunes on Piscinas beach are protected by a landscape preservation order⁴ and a blanket conservation order⁵. Although the various institutions have been saying all the right things, between 2008 and the present day, not a single structural or environmental clean-up project has come to fruition.

Given the urgency and the growing threat to health, can the Commission say:

1. Is it aware of the environmental disaster that has been unfolding in the Piscinas area for the past 30 years?
2. Could the unchecked release of contaminated waters into the waterways and the sea constitute a serious breach of EU legislation?
3. Will it disclose what action provided for by EU law it might take against the relevant national and regional authorities?

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¹ <https://gruppodinterventogiuridicoweb.com/2016/03/01/rio-irvi-piscinas-avvelanamento-continuo/>;
<https://gruppodinterventogiuridicoweb.com/2019/09/04/linferno-in-paradiso-alla-foce-del-rio-irvi-piscinas/>.

² https://www.regione.sardegna.it/documenti/1_385_20180802114418.pdf.

³ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE97-NAT-IT-004140/dune-di-piscinas-monte-arcuentu>.

⁴ ITB040031 Monte Arcuentu e Rio Piscinas.

⁵ ITB040071 Da Piscinas a Riu Scivu.