

WRITTEN QUESTION P-5810/08
by Beniamino Donnici (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Disposal of toxic waste and soil pollution in Crotone

A major scandal has erupted recently in the town of Crotone concerning the illegal disposal of highly toxic waste from a now disused industrial site. According to the local press, some of the waste ended up in the sea, some in the subsoil, and some was used, together with other inert materials, for the construction of private housing, and even schools.

The judicial authorities are finally taking an interest in the matter in an attempt to determine any possible criminal liability, while the administrative authorities are taking the necessary clean-up measures as a matter of urgency.

Furthermore, it seems that the relevant supervisory authorities were aware of these serious breaches of the rules on waste disposal and environment and soil protection as long ago as 1999, but did nothing about it.

The situation is causing deep and understandable public concern with regard to the health risks posed, particularly the growing incidence of cancers in the region.

Is the Commission aware of the above facts?

Does it not consider that this represents a very serious infringement of the European directives on waste disposal, soil protection and water pollution?

What urgent measures will it take to safeguard public health?

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