

**Priority question for written answer P-000917/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Request for EU to look into environmental crisis and rights breaches at Marina di Acate

The accumulation of plastic and other waste from greenhouse farming activities conducted just metres from the sea is causing persistent environmental problems in Marina di Acate, in the Gulf of Gela, Sicily<sup>1</sup>. Despite the odd clean-up operation<sup>2</sup>, sequestrations by the Italian Coast Guard and the enforcement of legislation such as Law No 68/2015 on environmental crimes, the situation of degradation persists, with serious environmental, social and human implications. Reports drawn up by the regional environmental protection agency, ARPA Sicilia, highlight non-compliance with the requirement under the European directives on water quality (Directive 2000/60/EC) and marine strategy (Directive 2008/56/EC) for monitoring to be carried out in the area.

This issue is part of a broader problem involving human rights, environmental, social and labour rights violations, as well as a lack of suitable education for children, creating a situation that runs very much counter to the values and objectives of the EU<sup>3</sup>.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What can it do to ensure the effective implementation of Directives 2000/60/EC and 2008/56/EC on protecting waters and the marine environment, in the context of the serious pollution of the Natura 2000 site ITA050001 'Biviere e Macconi di Gela'<sup>4</sup>?
2. What specific actions are planned to counter breaches of human, environmental and social rights in the EU's rural and coastal areas?
3. Does it intend to verify with the local authorities how many and what breaches of EU law persist in the area in question?

Submitted: 25.3.2024

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.lasiciliaweb.it/2022/01/tonnellate-di-plastica-delle-serre-in-spiaggia-ad-acate/>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.arpa.sicilia.it/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Report-bonifica-Marina-di-Acate.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ilpost.it/2022/12/12/serre-ragusa-diritti-braccianti/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2019-004143\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2019-004143_EN.html)