



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
Directorate D – Implementation, Governance & Semester  
ENV.D.2 – Enforcement, Cohesion Policy & European semester, Cluster 2  
The Head of Unit

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**Subject: Your communication regarding the "ILVA" steel and iron installation in Taranto**

Dear Madam,

Commissioner Vella has asked me to reply directly to your communication of 10/12/2015, registered by these services under the reference number Ares(2015)5733639, by which you express worries about the conclusions of the latest ASL report, which confirms a critical situation in Taranto. You also point out that the Italian government promulgated a new piece of legislation which postpones the works foreseen by the environmental permit of the installation and introduces the possibility for the future owner of ILVA to change the environmental plan.

I would like to reassure you that the European Commission is closely following the situation with the aim of ensuring that the Italian Authorities take the necessary measures for the actual implementation of the ILVA environmental permit, in order to reduce as much as possible the environmental impact of the steel installation and to protect the environment and citizens' health in Taranto, in line with the requirements of EU-law.

Progress has been made after the start of the infringement procedure and I can reassure you that the Commission will continue its efforts to ensure that EU law is respected. In this context, I share your concerns relating to the need of urgent measures to the longstanding environmental pollution in Taranto, the control and clean-up of which need serious efforts by the Italian Authorities. At the same time, the procedural safeguards of EU law must be observed as well.

Finally, I want to confirm that, on the basis of all the information in its possession (including your submissions) and some further clarifications with the Italian authorities, the European Commission will decide as soon as possible on the further action in the

framework of the infringement procedure, with the aim of protecting the environment and citizens' health in Taranto.

Your sincerely,



Ion Codescu