



Taranto, 5th July 2014

Dear President,

Three months have gone by since our last meeting in Brussels during which we discussed the ILVA plant in Taranto and the current levels of pollution in my hometown. And from what we witness today, the situation in Taranto worsens by the day because no solution to the extremely polluting conditions in which the ILVA plant operates have been adopted.

The Commission sent recently a new letter of formal notice to Italy referring to the well-known fact that soil, surface and ground waters of the ILVA site are heavily polluted and they could be causing potentially severe effects on the health of the population of Taranto.

Italy has had two months, as per procedure, to reply but no matter what the Italian authorities have already or will reply, the situation in Taranto has not changed or known amelioration of any sort.

ILVA's new environmental plan underlines not only the vagueness of the measures by which ILVA and the Italian Government - that acts as ILVA Commissioner as the plant has been put under direct management - intend to adopt, but also the very slow *mise en place* of any real measure foreseen in the many decrees and special laws adopted on the issue during the past years.

We can witness, with thousands of people and ILVA workers, that no structural or procedural change in the production process or infrastructure of any sort has been realized while the latest "Sentieri" study, carried out by the national health institute (ISS) and published on 3 July, calls for urgent action in Taranto. The results of the health study for Taranto area are simply dramatic: a copy is joined.

The mortality rate for children is extremely high, as well as the disease cases.

In the second letter of formal notice, the Commission mentioned that ILVA poses an immediate danger to human health and that, according to Article 8.2 of the

European Directive on Industrial Emissions: “ *in the event that the breach of permit conditions poses an immediate danger to human health or threatens to cause an immediate significant adverse effect upon the environment,..., the operation of the installation, thereof shall be suspended*”.

You are President of the European Parliament and thus the speaker of the European citizens.

We urge You, Mr. President, to break free of political hesitations and to support the rights of the people of Taranto as You would support and embrace the rights of other populations being oppressed, as we are, in name of steel production and of a particularly compromised political class that has simply failed to adopt the necessary measures that would have protected the population.

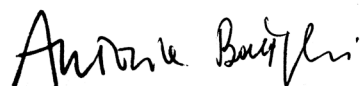
The situation is objectively impossible to defend, and we trust that You will step in to ask the Italian Government to intervene and the European Commission to bring the issue forward fast!

You are the first president of the European Parliament to have been re-elected, You have been able to create a link with citizens throughout the European Union and be seen as a human embodiment of too often technocratic “Brussels”. In continuation of Your engagement to protect European people’s rights, we ask You to intervene.

I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations on Your re-appointment and hope that You will continue in your endeavors in the same spirit You have done before.

Sincerely Yours,

Antonia Battaglia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antonia Battaglia'.

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