



Brussels, 23 September

2016

Commissioner Karmenu Vella,
European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Copy: Commissioner Margrethe Vestager,
European Commissioner for Competition

Dear Commissioner,

We would like to bring to your attention recent events that have taken place in Taranto, in relation to the ILVA steel plant.

It is only few days ago that Peacelink has presented a document on the effects of all those dusts that are not registered by the Regional Environmental Agency (ARPA) control units, that are by law obliged to detect PM10 and PM 2.5 but that are not suitable to detect specific dusts present in Taranto.

Those specific dusts pollute with PM higher than PM 11 and lower than PM 0,7. Control units have filters that are not made to measure PM 0,1 and nanoparticles.

Dusts whose control is not defined by law, and that come out of ILVA spreading over town for kilometers and depositing themselves on peoples, on buildings, on the ground, with a heightened intensity during the frequent "wind days" (the full documentation can be found here <http://www.peacelink.it/ecologia/a/43543.html>)

It was also few days ago that the update of the Sentieri Study, redacted by Dr. Forastiere and his team, showed an important relation existing between

growing pathologies and the days of wind, when the pollution from the industrial area is particularly strong.

And again few days ago, a shocking video published by a local TV showed heavy violations of the AIA (Integrated Environmental Authorization) as emissions would come out of the coke-ovens area (<http://www.tvmed.tv/video-shock-dalla-cokeria-ilva/>).

The worst that could happen, though, happened again on the 17 of September with the death of another ILVA worker, that lost his life at the Blast Furnace 4 (AFO4) under circumstances that are still to be clarified.

Colleagues of Giacomo Campo reported, after the accident, that working rhythms inside the plant are tight and workers are urged to produce in a climate of pressure and tension.

Data on the incidence of deaths in Taranto (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1E91mjHsJPPzx_FAlfaOfH_m4Pugd1Ng_dBsKqkJ1JXp0/edit) remain worrying and do not witness any abatement of the danger for the population.

ISPRA has ascertained, once more, violations to the AIA permit in its latest report, revealing also in writing that ILVA has asked secrecy over some of the information (<http://www.peacelink.it/ecologia/a/43530.html>).

The list of violations taking place is very long, and we could continue reporting on many pages more.

But the sense of this letter is not to give you documents to read, that we will anyway convey to your Services.

The aim is to denounce that the violation of the rights of a population is still taking place, and that even taking into consideration the fundamental value of work and the strategic value that ILVA has for the Government, these rights cannot be tread upon continuously.

We do not believe that it lays in the rights of any Institution to keep Taranto in the status quo it finds itself in. There is nothing more to hope for, to wait for, to expect as long as ILVA keeps on producing this way.

We do not think that it lays in the rights of any Government to put at risk its population and its workers, accepting that they have to live under continuous threat, because this this violates several articles of the Italian Constitution.

We appreciate that the Italian Government has started a process to sell the plant, but months keep on going by and we do notice that the situation continues to be very hard for the population and the workers.

Peacelink asks to meet you and we urge the Commission to assist Italy in defining a clear and straightforward strategy on ILVA, that at the moment is, at best, missing.

Sincerely yours,

Antonia Battaglia, Alessandro Marescotti, Luciano Manna

