

## **ILVA STEEL FACTORY: SIX TIMES LESS POLLUTED THAN THE WHOLE TOWN OF TARANTO!?!**

*Alessandro Marescotti, President of "Peacelink"*

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A new positive record has been reached by Taranto's Ilva Steel Factory: the coke plant doesn't pollute anymore...practically.

The plant was in the defendant's seat, depicted as an unhealthy department. But it would be fair to say everything has changed now. The PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) have no longer the centre of their diffusion in the coking plant of Ilva. It is the town itself that is now polluting the steel factory! And (hear ye!) the plant has become the healthiest and cleanest one in the whole factory! Within a few months, Ilva has proved all the technical and scientific literature (which always considered the coke plant as the most polluted AND most polluting area of a steel mill) wrong! Look here, it's a true miracle, the numbers speak for themselves:

Coke plant	PAH 2
Executive floor	PAH 8
Meteo Parks	PAH 5
Reception	PAH 5
Riv1	PAH 7
Tamburi district	PAH 12

The figures are in Nanograms/m<sup>3</sup> and they are online on the A.R.P.A Puglia (Regional Agency for pollution Prevention and Protection) website, updated to the 1st of July 2014. It's sad that the "miracle" hasn't been performed earlier, sparing Mr Vendola (Governor of Puglia Regiona) to go under investigation and consequently suffering a 7 hours long interrogation.

One should know that in the PAH lurks the deadly benzo (a) pyrene, a carcinogen substance that would have enraged Mr Vendola, as stated by Mr Archina', Ilva's PR. "If this is A.R.P.A.'s way, it can altogether f...k off!", these were his words.

Indeed, as the culprit were exactly those vicious Nanograms/m<sup>3</sup>.

Mr Vendola was just worried about all those PAH and for that benzo (a) pyrene. Indeed in 2010 a zealous report from A.R.P.A. dated June 4th accused Ilva of being the source of 99% of the Tamburi district PAH. Only the coke plant released 98% of benzo (a) pyrene present in that neighborhood, according to the report which then became a focal point of the judicial investigation.

After four years since that report, now everything has changed. Thanks to the miracle, Ilva has now values of PAH six times lower than in the city. This is not a joke: these are official data.

A thing never seen anywhere in the world. While not complying with the A.I.A. authorization (Integrated Environmental Authorization), Ilva gets better results than other steel plants that do comply.

Mr Edo Ronchi, now responsible of Ilva's environmental plan, is rightly proud. "The data? - in the words of Mr Ronchi - I did not invent them. Those are official A.R.P.A. data. And if they say that Taranto's citizens enjoy the best air in Italy, you have to believe it!"

But Divine Providence has gone even further: of all the citizens It has chosen to bring Its grace even to the workers of the coke plant. With only 2 nanograms per cubic meter of PAH (which corresponds to zero benzo (a) pyrene) they don't only work but have the privilege of living in an

oasis of well-being!?! Living in such good air is not for everyone. Those lucky workers will not need a smog mask: they will go home and give them as presents to their less fortunate children.