

## THE LEAD-FREE ILVA IN ACCORDANCE TO MR EDO RONCHI

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The Italian newspaper "Il Fatto Quotidiano" publishes today an interview to Mr Ronchi by Beatrice Borromeo.

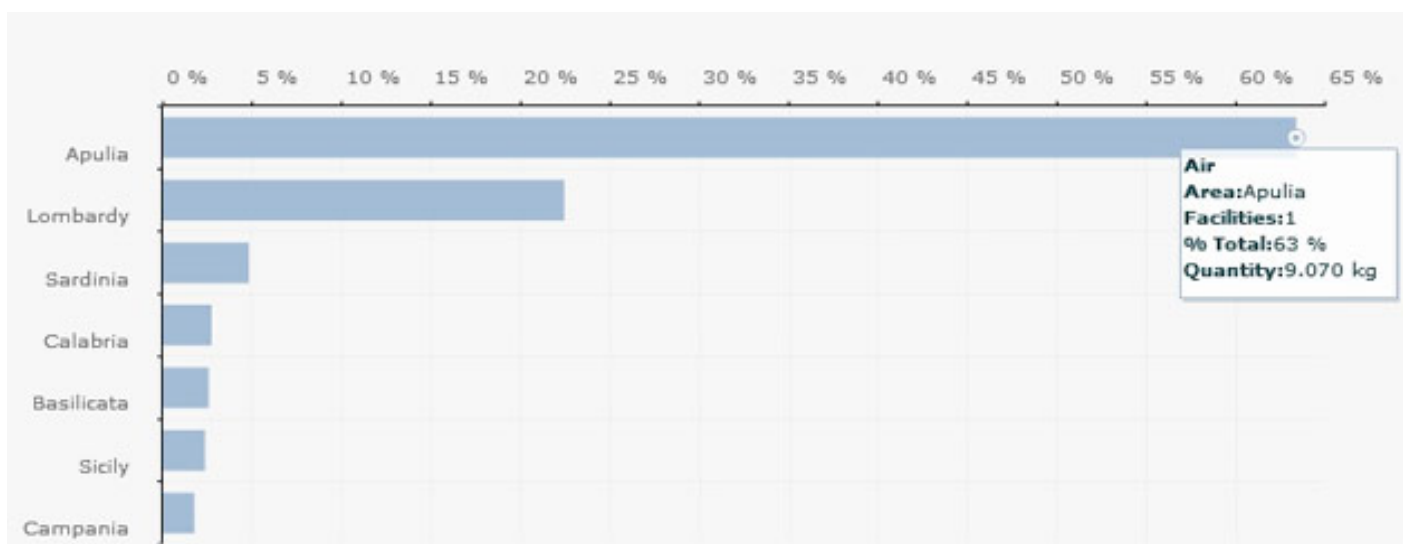
Mr Ronchi's opinion is that "the dangers for Taranto's inhabitants come from the past". The journalist then pushes him: "Some children who live in the Tamburi district, however, appear to have a high amount of lead in their blood. And the lead remains in the body only for a few weeks".

Ronchi falls from the clouds and says, "I don't know. Lead from Ilva? "

Beatrice Borromeo doesn't give up, "The data from A.R.P.A. (Regional Agency for pollution Prevention and Protection) are clear".

He answers: "It is true that anything comes out of the factory, but I do not think that even lead is released. Unfortunately the children store it up six times more than adults. Yes, it is harmful. I do not remember all the pathologies linked to it, but I can definitely say that it is one of the most dangerous elements".

To the benefit of our readers we provide some data and some observation



**First observation. The amount of lead emitted by Ilva.** According to Mr Ronchi it is not among the substances emitted by Ilva. Based on the latest data in the E-PRTR (*European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register*) log it would instead be estimated at **9070 Kg (19 995.927 18 Pounds) a year**, only considering aerial emissions.

The quantity of industrial emissions in Italy, obtainable by the European registry, is of **14300 Kg (31 526.103 492 Pounds) a year**. Therefore, Ilva alone would be responsible of 63% of the whole country emissions!!!

On page 49 of the Health Assessment of Damage written by A.R.P.A. Puglia for Ilva Taranto it reads: "As far as the lead **there were not any significant differences** between the maps of annual concentrations of emissions between the 2010 and the 2016 scenarios". This means that the lead will remain a problem even if A.I.A. (Integrated Environmental Authorisation) will be implemented.

**Second observation. Children should not have lead in their blood**, and for this reason some pediatricians have intervened. The fact that children can absorb more is not a mitigating factor but an aggravating one.

**Third observation.** Lead is **carcinogenic** as well as **neurotoxic**, and is also present in **Taranto's citizens urine** in higher than the expected concentrations.

**The fourth observation** is about Mr Edo Ronchi, who should know about these technical topics by heart as he is responsible for the environmental Ilva plan. The lead issue should be addressed and measured carefully under the emissivity profile as well as with consistent bio-monitoring of blood and urine. But Mr Ronchi looks like he wants to wholly dodge the question itself.

**The fifth observation** is to be made upon the curious circumstance under which Mr Ronchi was releasing this interview: while he was minimizing the reddish clouds from Ilva ("that emergency, trust me, is now no more," he says) one of those very clouds was at the same time flowing, and it's the one that you see in photo.



Picture captions say:

“Relax, no more dust storms!”, Edo Ronchi (“Il Fatto Quotidiano, July 1st 2014)

In the picture: Ilva, Taranto: “slopping” in plant n°1 at 7:30am, June 30th 2014

Photo: @Luciano Manna (Peacelink)