

JANEZ POTOČNIK
Member of the European Commission

Brussels, 14 08. 2014
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Ms Antonia Battaglia
Mr Alessandro Marescotti
Mr Luciano Manna
Peacelink
Post Box 2009
Taranto
ITALY

Dear Madam, dear Sirs,

Thank you for your letter of 7 July 2014 in which you express your worries about the conclusions of the latest update of the "Sentieri" study, confirming the sanitary critical situation in Taranto and Statte.

I would like to reassure you that the European Commission continues to closely monitor the situation with the aim to ensure that Italian authorities take the necessary measures for the actual implementation of the ILVA permit, in order to comply with all relevant emission limits imposed for environmental and health reasons.

I consider that some limited progress has already been made after the start of the infringement procedure, but I am committed to pursuing this case until full satisfaction is found for the people directly affected and the environment in Taranto in line with existing EU law. I also share your concerns relating to the need of urgent measures, but there is no easy solution to the longstanding environmental pollution in Taranto the control and clean-up of which will need serious efforts by the Italian authorities.

Finally, I want to confirm that, on the basis of all the information in its possession, the European Commission will rapidly decide what further action to take in the framework of the infringement procedure, with the aim of protecting the environment and citizens' health in Taranto.

Yours sincerely,

