

Commissioner Karmenu Vella
European Commission
Berlaymont
Rue de la Loi
Brussels

Taranto/Brussels, 13 November 2014

Dear Commissioner Vella,

In the name of Peacelink, we would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and at the same time we would like to seize this opportunity to introduce ourselves.

Our association has been working very actively on the issue of the polluting emissions of the ILVA steel plant in Taranto, Italy, and has been leading a convincing action with the European Commission to denounce and provide a daily follow-up of the reality on the ground.

We have been supporting our action with the material that has served your institution, through Commissioner Potocnik, to launching two infringement procedures against Italy, and recently the reasoned opinion on ILVA's non-respect of norms.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-1151_en.htm

ILVA is Europe's largest steel and iron plant and has been failing, in the view of the Commission, to operate in conformity with EU legislation on industrial emissions, with potentially serious consequences for human health and environment.

The Commission has sent to Italy two letters of formal notice, in September 2013 and April 2014, urging the Italian authorities to take measures in order to bring the operation of the ILVA plant into compliance with the Industrial Emissions Directive and other applicable EU environmental law.

But breaches to the legislation remain and important deficiencies, such as lack of compliance with the conditions set out in the permits, make ILVA a dangerous plant for its workers and for Taranto's inhabitants.

The uncontrolled emissions stemming from the plant keep on giving rise to negative impacts on health and environment.

We are sure that you are well aware of what ILVA represents to Taranto and the various and many issues related to its production: pollution, disease, death, as reported in the documents of the Italian magistrates.

In line with our activity and the importance that we attach to the key role that the Commission has in guaranteeing the correct application of Community law in Taranto and the protection of human rights, we would like to ensure you that we will continue provide your services with our continuous support.

We will present your cabinet with the latest developments and we hope that this case, that symbolizes the need for EU action in the field of the environment, will represent one of your priorities.

We seize the opportunity to ask you for a meeting .

Yours sincerely,

Antonia Battaglia, Alessandro Marescotti, Luciano Manna

The image shows three handwritten signatures in black ink. From left to right, they appear to be: Antonia Battaglia, Alessandro Marescotti, and Luciano Manna. The signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

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