



Taranto, 3rd March 2015

To the attention of the President of the European Commission
Berlaymont Building,
Brussels

Copy: Commissioner Karmenu Vella

Dear President,

The new law concerning the functioning of the Ilva steel plant in Taranto has been approved by the Italian Parliament today.

The law, the seventh approved on Ilva in just a few years, represents a threat to the population of Taranto and puts in serious danger the health of people living in Taranto and of Ilva workers.

Ilva has been declared bankrupt a few weeks ago: a hole of 3 billion euros is its debt, a sum that clearly indicates that funds for any environmental measure are hard to find. Ilva economic balance has not been made public since 2012 and press reports that Ilva is losing an important quantity of money every month.

The sanitary and environmental danger is very well known to Italian Authorities, and the European Commission has launched an infringement procedure and a consequent reasoned opinion last October 2014. According to the Commission, tests have shown heavy pollution of the air, soil, surface and ground waters both at the Ilva site and in nearby areas of the city of Taranto.

Italy has failed and keeps on failing to ensure that the plant produces in conformity with EU Law. Most of the problems stem from a failure to reduce the high level of uncontrolled emissions, which give rise to potentially serious negative impacts on the health of the local population and on the state of the environment.

The 7th Ilva law approved today guarantees production but reduces heavily the already weak environmental protection. The measures that should have ensured the right of people to live have not been applied. Moreover, the Ilva managing Commissioners will have the power to decide which measures to apply or not. Their responsibility for acts committed or omitted is without consequence because they have been exempted from penal consequences.

Taranto will have 500.000 euros for 2015 to cure those increasing diseases that are heavily and continuously affecting the population.

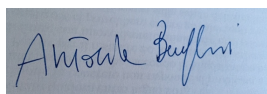
We believe, dear President, that the European Commission should step in to protect EU Law and Taranto's citizens' rights.

Taranto is a town hosting the largest European steel plant and that has been scarified for its sake, being refused protection by Italian Authorities, be they local, regional or national.

We have no choice but to turn to the European Commission to step in and continue help protecting Taranto's right to a future, its people's and its workers human rights.

Yours sincerely,

Antonia Battaglia, Alessandro Marescotti and Luciano Manna



Peacelink
Taranto/Brussels