



Brussels, 26 May 2015

To:
Ms Věra Jourová
Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality
Brussels

Copy:
Mr Jean-Claude Juncker
President of the EU Commission

Mr Karmenu Vella
Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Dear Commissioner,

Peacelink would like to bring to your attention a law that has been recently approved in Italy by the two Chambers and that is going to influence jurisprudence on environmental issues in a ponderous way.

The decree-law 1345 on environmental crimes, approved on 19 May 2015, represents a danger and constitutes an attempt to interfere with justice, a manoeuvre to stop the application of Environment law and avoid the punishment for environmental misconducts and even severe offences.

We believe that this law goes against the Directive 2008/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008, on the protection of the environment via criminal law.

It is in fact in different points that the text offers the possibility, to those who are committing even heavy environmental crimes, not to be brought to justice. Our attention, though, has been drawn, from Magistrates and experts, in particular to the very specific use of the term "abusivamente" which corresponds in English to "illegally, without authorization, unlawfully".

What the norm ratifies is that crime committed unlawfully (without authorization) has to be punished, but consequently all crimes committed with

authorization will not be punished. The new law, which amends Italian environmental law, will punish only those who act without prior authorization, meaning that all industries and other polluting sources that are authorized to operate and produce (and to pollute!) by their permits, will not be persecuted by law.

Peacelink is deeply worried that the norm, which has been strongly desired by the Government and supported by all political parties, represents an authorization to continue polluting for all those factories, instalments, plants that *de facto* constitute a real and ascertained danger for human health and environment.

Peacelink is working with the EU Commission on the infringement procedure against Europe's biggest steel plant, ILVA: we are authors of the denunciation and are keeping the Commission and the European Parliament abreast of developments in Taranto, where ILVA is situated.

Many high ranking Italian personalities have spoken out against this new "amnesty-law". And you know, dear Commissioner, that Italy has the highest number of infringements for environmental issues in the EU.

This law does not only represent a threat to the environment, but first of all to people and to those innocents that have been paying the price for polluting plants, energy production sites, refineries, landfills, purifiers, over the years.

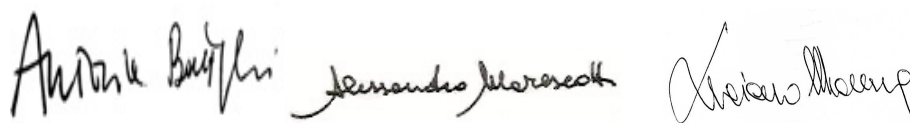
Peacelink asks the Commission to intervene and to look as soon as possible in a law that is already putting at risk the ILVA court case ("Ambiente Svenduto") and that is an anchor for all polluting instalments in the Country.

Yours sincerely,

Antonia Battaglia,

Alessandro Marescotti,

Luciano Manna

The image shows three handwritten signatures in black ink. From left to right: Antonia Battaglia, Alessandro Marescotti, and Luciano Manna. The signatures are fluid and cursive, matching the printed names above them.

Peacelink