



Brussels, 7th march 2016

Commissioner Karmenu Vella

EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Brussels

Dear Commissioner,

One year has passed since Peacelink has brought to the Commission's attention the serious situation of Brindisi (Italy), where pollution remains a very concerning issue.

Unfortunately, during this time the situation has not improved, to say the least. Brindisi continues to be neglected and remains an area at high environmental crisis risk.

There has been no implementation of plan for a reduction of emissions, nor acts intended to protect public health, not even when adverse weather conditions increase risks because of winds that lead emissions directly over the city for continued periods of time.

In July 2015 an the article called "Secondary particulate matter originating from an industrial source and its impact on population health" was published, based on a research conducted by researchers Mangia, Cervino and Gianicolo of the National Research Council.

The source under consideration was the coal-fired power station ENEL – Federico II (total capacity 2640 MW) located in Cerano (Brindisi).

The report by the European Environment Agency (EEA) "Revealing the cost of air pollution from industrial facilities in Europe" considers that the Enel Federico II of Cerano is the 18th most polluting industrial plant in Europe, the first in Italy, quantifying between 550 and 700 million euro its impact costs on environment and health.

The report "Europe's Dirty 30" classifies Cerano among the top ten most polluting facilities in the continent. The theme of the study was the impact of primary and secondary particulate on public health.

The study found that secondary particulate should not be underestimated in the environmental and health impact assessments. The survey conducted in the specific case study of the ENEL coal power plant showed, in fact, that ignoring the role of the secondary particulate would lead to a significant underestimation of the impact on the health of the population.

The study has shown that exposure to primary and secondary PM2.5 produced by the plant is to be directly associated to a range varying from 4 to 28 deaths per year. A recent survey on the health effects of environmental pollution coming from Enel power plant was realized by the Senate Commission of Hygiene and Health Care (<https://www.senato.it/Leg17/3688>). Results talk about the extremely serious risks run by the population of Brindisi. But to the alarm, no action has followed.

Meanwhile, the impact evaluation for a new coastal diesel deposit to be build close to Brindisi is being realized. Several associations have expressed their doubts to the Ministry of the Environment, with no feedback or reply.

The climate of mistrust between citizens and Institutions has been deepened recently by the arrest of Brindisi mayor Cosimo Consales, over an issue of bribery and corruption related to waste management, of fraud in public provision, fraud in the municipal damage and unauthorized operation of an illegal landfill.

We ask the Commission to investigate into the situation of Brindisi and to take into serious and urgent consideration the health and environmental implications that, on a daily basis, many pay for with their lives.

Yours sincerely,

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