Priority question for written answer P-001454/2024
to the Commission
Rule 144
Dario Tamburrano (The Left), Danilo Della Valle (The Left), Ignazio Roberto Marino (Verts/ALE), Mario Furore (The Left), Carolina Morace (The Left), Benedetta Scuderi (Verts/ALE), Gaetano Pedulla' (The Left), Valentina Palmisano (The Left), Pasquale Tridico (The Left)

Subject: Plans to build a waste incineration plant with a capacity of 600 000 tonnes/year in Santa Palomba (9th administrative subdivision of Rome Capital)

In Italy, the process to authorise the construction of a large-scale incinerator in Santa Palomba (9th administrative subdivision of Rome Capital), with a capacity of 600 000 tonnes of municipal waste per year, will soon be launched.

Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852[1] clearly lists the incineration of waste (with the exception of non-recyclable hazardous waste) as an economic activity that causes 'significant harm to the EU's environmental objectives'. According to the regulation, the 'significant environmental damage' concerns the circular economy. Recital (27)[2] of the regulation states: 'The environmental objective of the transition to a circular economy should be interpreted in accordance with relevant Union law on circular economy [and] waste'.

Despite the fact that the current EU legislation, from which it can be interpreted that incineration is considered harmful, does allow for incineration in some cases, on the basis of Regulation 2020/852 it would appear that the construction of any more large-scale incineration plants would undermine the current objectives of the transition to a circular economy.

In view of the above:

1. Would the construction of a new large-scale municipal waste incineration plant cause significant damage to the EU's environmental objectives?

2. In that case, what will the Commission do to prevent this new large-scale incineration plant from being built?

3. Will it propose further regulatory restrictions at EU level to completely remove incineration from the waste hierarchy, and if so, when?

Supporter[3]

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[1] Regulation (EU) 2020/852, Article 17(d)(ii), https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32020R0852#d1e2555-13-1.
[2] Regulation (EU) 2020/852, recital 27, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32020R0852#d1e40-13-1.
[3] This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Giuseppe Antoci (The Left)