

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001466/24
to the Commission**

**Valentina Palmisano (The Left), Pasquale Tridico (The Left), Gaetano Pedulla' (The Left), Carolina Morace (The Left),
Giuseppe Antoci (The Left), Mario Furore (The Left), Dario Tamburrano (The Left)**
(1 August 2024)

Subject: Acciaierie d'Italia (formerly ILVA): state aid, environmental compatibility and protecting public health

The Commission recently approved a EUR 320 million bridging loan with which the Italian Government hopes to breathe new life into the Acciaierie d'Italia (formerly ILVA) steelworks. The plant — which has been in dire straits for years and has all but ceased production — has lately been granted further state aid in the form of loans. Acciaierie d'Italia will use the above bridging loan to try to get production up and running by gradually reactivating their four blast furnaces, which use coal to make steel (the 'integrated cycle').

In other words, the steelworks are still nowhere near achieving the objectives set out as part of the green transition, thus disregarding a raft of ECHR rulings as well as a recent CJEU judgment (C-626/22). What is more, Acciaierie d'Italia are also ignoring the Puglia Environmental Protection Agency's latest study which, despite the steelworks' minimal output, still detected pollutants harmful to both the environment and public health.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission believe that the business plan submitted by Acciaierie d'Italia complies with the Green Deal's decarbonisation objectives and timeframes, as well as with Directive 2010/75/EU?
2. Does the Commission not consider that the process to renew the steelworks' (expired) integrated environmental authorisation (AIA) should, pursuant to the precautionary (Article 191 TFEU) and 'do no significant harm' principles, take into account all the harmful substances that are known to the scientific community in order to ensure a high level of protection of the environment and human health?

Submitted: 1.8.2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Vestager on behalf of the European Commission
(4 October 2024)

As concerns the EUR 320 million bridge loan to Acciaierie d'Italia (formerly ILVA) steelworks, that measure has not been notified to the Commission and so has not been the object of a Commission decision under the state aid rules.

It is for the Member State to assess if a specific measure involves state aid and accordingly to proceed with a notification. The Italian authorities consider that the terms of the loan are market based and therefore would not involve state aid.

In the framework of the ongoing infringement against Italy on the compliance of the former ILVA steelworks plant with Directive 2010/75/EU ⁽¹⁾ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (Industrial Emissions Directive, 'IED'), the Commission is monitoring the implementation of Italian measures to restore compliance with the IED. Italy's latest submission is currently under assessment.

In its recent ruling interpreting the IED in Case C-626/22 ⁽²⁾, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruled that for the purposes of granting or reconsidering a permit to operate an installation, the competent authority must take into account, in addition to the polluting substances that are foreseeable having regard to the nature and type of industrial activity concerned, all those polluting substances which are the subject of emissions scientifically recognised as harmful which are liable to be emitted from the installation concerned including those generated by that activity which were not assessed during the initial authorisation procedure for that installation.

The Italian authorities must comply with this ruling in the context of the renewal of the steelworks integrated environmental authorisation.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 334 17.12.2010, p. 17

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:62022CJ0626>