

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000891/25
to the Commission**

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(3 March 2025)

Subject: Landfills in Contrada Tufarelle

Contrada Tufarelle, in Apulia, has been used as a metaphorical dustbin since 1992: the site comprises three landfills and has always been a public health concern.

The results of the latest characterisation plan confirmed that the area may have a soil and groundwater pollution problem, as the contamination threshold values for both organic and inorganic pollutants had been exceeded.

By means of Decision No 673/2022, the regional executive approved an update to the regional plan for special waste which refers to potentially contaminated sites as one of the ‘exclusionary’ criteria for decisions regarding the location of new landfills and for the renewal and extension of existing landfills. As a result, the ongoing procedure in the province of Barletta-Andria-Trani concerning the extension of one of the three landfills must be overturned.

Human health and the environment must be well protected against even potential hazards, and an assessment must be carried out of the types and methods of applying the preventive measures that can be taken, in accordance with the precautionary principle, which lays down that if pollution is a concern, decisions must be suspended (Article 191 TFEU).

In the light of the above, in the Commission’s view, what initiatives can be take to ensure that the environment and public health are protected in the Contrada Tufarelle area?

Submitted: 3.3.2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(29 April 2025)

By judgment of 21 March 2019 in C-498/17 ⁽¹⁾ the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) declared that Italy has failed to comply with Article 14 of the Landfill Directive ⁽²⁾ in respect of 44 so called ‘existing landfills’.

Given that by 2022 compliance had not been achieved, as only 32 out the 44 landfills for which Italy was condemned by the CJEU in C-498/17 had been closed in accordance with the requirements of the directive, a Letter of Formal Notice (LFN) under Article 260 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU was issued on 6 April 2022 ⁽³⁾. The landfill CO.BE.MA. in Apulia in Contrada Tufarelle is among the 12 remaining non-compliant landfills included in the LFN adopted under Article 260 of the Treaty.

The Commission is closely monitoring compliance with the Court’s ruling. According to the latest information shared by the Italian authorities, the closure of the landfill CO.BE.MA. in Apulia in Contrada Tufarelle is expected by 15 May 2025.

The Commission is not aware of other landfills in Contrada Tufarelle. In any case, it is for the Italian competent authorities to give correct application to the relevant EU rules. In its role as guardian of the Treaties, the Commission may decide to intervene if systemic issues with application of these provisions of EU law arise.

⁽¹⁾ <https://curia.europa.eu/juris/liste.jsf?language=EN&num=C-498/17>

⁽²⁾ Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste, OJ L 182, 16.7.1999, p. 1-19, amended by Directive (EU) 2018/850 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018, OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 100-108.

⁽³⁾ INFR(2011)2215, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/inf_22_1769