

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003109/25
to the Commission
Pasquale Tridico (The Left)
(26 July 2025)**

Subject: Persistent delays in compliance with Directive 91/271/EEC in the conurbation of Cosenza-Rende and EU sanctions

Within the framework of infringement procedure 2004/2034 (Case C-251/17), Italy was found to have breached Directive 91/271/EEC on urban waste water treatment, including the area of Cosenza-Rende, which is still in breach of Article 3 of the directive.

By means of Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE) Decision No 60/2012, EUR 35 million (24.5 million in public money and 10.5 million private) was allocated to upgrading the wastewater treatment plant and sewerage systems serving 29 municipalities.

Despite the launch of a project financing procedure in 2015, pursuant to Article 153 et seq. of Legislative Decree 163/2006, and the signing of the concession contract in 2019, administrative and management delays persist, compounding this state of affairs and generating half-yearly fines estimated at EUR 30 million.

The Italian authorities have asked the Commission to exclude 249 590 population equivalents from the fine calculation, claiming a de facto level of compliance, although the works are incomplete.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to check the actual progress made with the Cosenza-Rende project as part of the monitoring of infringement procedure 2004/2034?
2. Does it believe that the exclusion of 249 590 population equivalents from the calculation of the fine without full compliance certification can be justified?
3. What instruments will it draw on to monitor the use of public resources?

Submitted: 26.7.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(4 September 2025)**

The agglomeration of Rende, province of Cosenza in Calabria, which has a total generated load of 293.636 population equivalent (p.e.) is concerned by the judgment C-251/17 of 31 May 2018 ⁽¹⁾ by Court of Justice of the European Union for a breach of Article 3 of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive ⁽²⁾.

In a letter to the Italian authorities dated 25 October 2019, the Commission acknowledged that part of the agglomeration had achieved compliance during the second semester after the Court's ruling (the period between 1 December 2018 and 31 May 2019), as the Italian authorities had demonstrated that 234 908 p.e. of the load was collected and treated in the Rende Contrada Volpe plant. The penalty was therefore reduced proportionally.

According to the latest information sent by the Italian authorities, compliance for the remaining load (58 728 p.e.) would not be reached before December 2026, with the upgrading of the treatment plant and the construction of new sewer collectors.

It is for the Italian authorities to determine the measures required to achieve compliance and to allocate the necessary financial resources. In this context, the Commission does not have competence to monitor the use of national public funds.

The Commission will continue to monitor the situation of the Rende agglomeration in the framework of infringement procedure INFR(2004)2034 ⁽³⁾ until full compliance is achieved, and to request the periodical payments of the fine corresponding to the part of the agglomeration pending compliance.

⁽¹⁾ <https://curia.europa.eu/juris/liste.jsf?num=C-251/17>.

⁽²⁾ Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste-water treatment, OJ L 135, 30.5.1991, pp. 40-52.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_16_4212.