

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003239/25
to the Commission**

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Ignazio Roberto Marino (Verts/ALE), Annalisa Corrado (S&D)**
(13 August 2025)

Subject: Compatibility of the Taranto steelworks' IEP with EU decarbonisation and public health objectives

The Italian Government has issued the Taranto steelworks (formerly known as ILVA) a new integrated environmental permit (IEP), allowing the facility to continue coal-based production for a further 12 years, reactivate four blast furnaces, increase its maximum output to six million tonnes a year and convert its AFO2 blast furnace into a plastic co-incineration plant (which has a capacity of over 50 000 tonnes per year).

The Italian Government issued the IEP despite the opposition of the National Institute of Health, the Apulia Region's environmental agency and the Italian Order of Physicians. Furthermore, as many as 107 new cases of occupational cancer have been reported among the plant's workers since the beginning of 2024.

Though infringement proceedings were opened years ago against Italy over the Taranto steelworks' failure to comply with emission limits and the serious repercussions that its operations are having on public health and the environment, the Italian State has yet to take any concrete action.

Having regard to the Green Deal, RePowerEU and the EU's directives on air quality and decarbonisation:

1. Is the Taranto plant's IEP compatible with EU environmental and public health objectives?
2. Have public funds been used in a manner compatible with the Italian NRRP's environmental requirements?
3. What action has Italy taken to ensure compliance with EU law and to bring about the closure of the aforementioned infringement proceedings?

Submitted: 13.8.2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(24 October 2025)

The Italian authorities have issued a new permit to the Taranto steel plant via decree n. 436 of 25 July 2025 ⁽¹⁾. This permit is being assessed by the Commission in line with the provisions of the Industrial Emissions Directive ⁽²⁾.

As part of the revision of the Italian Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) ⁽³⁾, taking into account the challenges related to the Taranto site, the Italian Government has decided to exclude funding for the direct reduced iron facility from the Plan and the project will be re-financed exclusively through national funds.

The Commission evaluates compliance with the 'Do No Significant Harm' (DNSH) principle for every measure upon submission of the RRP.

Throughout implementation, Member States are primarily responsible for ensuring that DNSH conditions are fully respected at all times, taking into account commitments set out in the submitted RRP in accordance with the DNSH Technical Guidance ⁽⁴⁾.

In response to the opening of infringement procedure INFR(2013)2177 ⁽⁵⁾ and before issuing the new permit, the Italian authorities have taken several steps towards reaching compliance with EU environmental law: the plant's permit has been amended several times, including by two so-called 'Environmental Plans' in 2014 and 2017, to include increasingly stricter provisions to protect the health of the residents and the environment; several measures were implemented to reduce pollution at the plant, leading the pollutant concentration in ambient air in Taranto to drop significantly; and clean-up operations have started at the site (although they are still to be completed).

⁽¹⁾ <https://va.mite.gov.it/it-IT/Oggetti/MetadatoDocumento/1280455>.

⁽²⁾ Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (recast), OJ L 334, 17.12.2010.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/italys-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/dnsh-technical-guidance-amended-october-2023_en.

⁽⁵⁾ [https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate&refId=INFR\(2013\)2177](https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate&refId=INFR(2013)2177).

Italy's reply of 4 September 2025 to the additional letter of formal notice issued on 7 May 2025 is being assessed.
