

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004074/25
to the Commission
Dario Tamburrano (The Left), Ignazio Roberto Marino (Verts/ALE)
(16 October 2025)**

Subject: Drying up of NRRP reforestation trees

The Commission confirmed that Italy's urban reforestation plans under the NRRP had, from the start to 31/12/2024 ⁽¹⁾, been successful.

According to an investigation ⁽²⁾, Mediterranean scrubland was cleared in Messina for reforestation; a natural forest was eliminated to plant spindly saplings.

In 2023, before the government abolished the concomitant audit ⁽³⁾, the Italian Court of Auditors found that ⁽⁴⁾, among the few trees actually planted ⁽⁵⁾, those in Reggio Calabria had been stifled by weeds and abandoned, and those in Genoa had dried up. Also in Genoa, they planned to plant new saplings of a species incompatible with the local climate in areas already covered in forest.

Recently, along the Roman coast, saplings planted under the NRRP (EUR 2.3 million) have dried up ⁽⁶⁾. Citizens report that they were planted on land full of waste ⁽⁷⁾.

A spindly sapling costs next to nothing. In Italy, they will only take root if watered regularly. If the contract also provides for dried-up trees to be replaced, replanting them until the obligation is exhausted may cost less than watering them.

Now, with the M2C4-20bis target, Italy wants to plant 3 500 000 trees by June 2026.

Can the Commission say whether it will hold Italy accountable, both for the past and the future, for making sure the NRRP trees have properly taken root and for cutting down existing forests to plant trees?

Submitted: 16.10.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(3 December 2025)**

The Commission is assessing the implementation of the Italian national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) in accordance with the requirements outlined in the annex to the Council Implementing Decision (CID Annex) ⁽¹⁾. Target M2C4-20bis of the investment on the Protection and enhancement of urban and peri-urban forests, will be assessed following the final payment request by Italy.

To assess the satisfactory fulfilment of this target, the Commission will take into account the aforementioned requirements set out in the CID Annex, on the basis of evidence submitted by Italy.

Should the Commission assess that any milestone or target of a given payment request is not satisfactorily met, it can take action to make a partial payment or suspend amounts related to non-fulfilled milestones or targets, in line with Article 24 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 ⁽²⁾.

Member States remain primarily responsible for the implementation of their Recovery and Resilience Plans as approved in the CID Annex, as well as for verifying that the financing provided has been properly used in accordance with all applicable rules.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/fa5262e2-06ba-4b24-b024-072ad032dffd_en?filename=C_2025_4506_1_EN_annexe_acte_autonome_nlw_part1_v3.pdf.

² <https://www.rai.it/programmi/report/inchieste/Il-seme-della-discordia-d6202b6f-f0ef-472f-a047-68d383b4ddcb.html>.

³ Decree-Law No 44/2023, Article 1(12d)(b) <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:decreto.legge:2023-04-22;44>.

⁴ <https://www.corteconti.it/Download?id=063b635c-4f44-4715-b94f-96947b0a8397>.

⁵ 'Solo alcune Città metropolitane sono andate oltre la fase di progettazione', ibidem.

⁶ <https://www.iltempo.it/roma-capitale/2025/09/21/news/pineta-acque-rosse-alberi-caldo-piantati-gia-secchi-strage-wwf-44195779/>.

⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1293941365706341>.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/5def5446-08e6-4cc0-8c02-c7d5a8bc9b5c_en?filename=COM_2025_675_1_EN_annexe_proposition_cp_part1_v3%20%282%29.pdf.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/241, OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, art. 24: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2021:057:FULL>.