

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000033/26
to the Commission
Giuseppe Antoci (The Left)
(7 January 2026)**

Subject: Fire at the Licata waste facility: post-fire residues, environmental monitoring and EU law

On 20 January 2024, there was a fire at a waste storage facility in the municipality of Licata. It is important in terms of protecting the soil, water and air and preventing risks to human health to properly categorise and manage post-fire materials and residues, including by making these safe, and if necessary removing and treating them, and to ensure the environmental restoration of the site.

In the light of Directive 2008/98/EC, and in particular Articles 13 and 15 thereof, Directive 2010/75/EU, in its applicable parts, Directive 2004/35/EC, Directive 2003/4/EC and Article 191(2) TFEU, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What information has it requested or does it intend to request from the Italian authorities on authorisations, restrictions, checks and measures it has adopted, including categorisation, securing, removal and treatment operations at the site and its environmental restoration, with the corresponding time scales?
2. Does it not think it should stress the need for suitable monitoring of the air, soil and water at the site and to publish the results of this and the risk management measures adopted?
3. What instruments does it intend to use within the scope of the competences set out in Article 17 TEU and Articles 258-260 TFEU, including EU Pilot and, if necessary, infringement proceedings?

Submitted: 7.1.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(5 March 2026)**

The Waste Framework Directive⁽¹⁾ requires Member States to ensure that waste management protects health and the environment. Waste treatment operators must have permits⁽²⁾ and are subject to regular inspections by competent authorities⁽³⁾.

Where waste is disposed of in landfills, strict operational and technical rules apply to protect surface water, groundwater, soil and air, and to prevent risks to human health throughout the landfill's life cycle⁽⁴⁾.

While certain landfills⁽⁵⁾ must comply with the obligations set out in Chapter II of the Industrial Emissions Directive⁽⁶⁾ (IED), the landfill in question was not reported by Italy as being covered by the IED.

Liability regarding the environmental consequences of accidents and incidents is primarily a matter of national law. However, the Environmental Liability Directive⁽⁷⁾ requires polluters to remedy any significant damage they have caused to environmental resources and to act preventively in case of an immediate threat of such damage.

National authorities must investigate cases of environmental damage. Interested or (likely to be) affected parties can require the competent national authorities to act. To this end, they should submit their observations to the authorities with supporting evidence.

Member States have a primary responsibility to monitor the application of EU law and enforce it. Individual cases like the one in question are better addressed at national level, where national authorities (including national courts) are best placed to ascertain whether there was a breach of EU environmental law.

⁽¹⁾ Article 13 of Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives, OJ L 312, 22.11.2008, as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May, OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 109-140.

⁽²⁾ Article 23 of Directive 2008/98/EC.

⁽³⁾ Article 34 of Directive 2008/98/EC.

⁽⁴⁾ Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste, OJ L 182, 16.7.1999, as 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.

⁽⁵⁾ Under point 5.4 of Annex I to Directive 2010/75/EU, landfills receiving more than 10 tonnes of waste per day or with a total capacity exceeding 25 000 tonnes, excluding landfills of inert waste.

⁽⁶⁾ Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control), OJ L 334, 17.12.2010, as amended by Directive (EU) 2024/1785 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 April 2024 OJ L, 15.7.2024.

⁽⁷⁾ Directive 2004/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage, OJ L 143, 30.4.2004.

In line with its strategic approach on enforcement action, the Commission focuses on systemic non-compliance ⁽⁸⁾, including under the EU Environmental Crime Directive ⁽⁹⁾.

⁽⁸⁾ As set out in the communication of 19 January 2017: EU law: Better results through better application — C/2016/8600, OJ C 18, 19.1.2017, p. 10-20 and in the communication of 13 October 2022: COM(2022) 518 final — Enforcing EU law for a Europe that delivers.

⁽⁹⁾ Directive 2008/99/EC and Directive (EU) 2024/1203 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on the protection of the environment through criminal law and replacing Directives 2008/99/EC and 2009/123/EC, OJ L, 2024/1203, 30.4.2024; the transposition deadline of the latter Directive is 21 May 2026.