

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002339/26  
to the Commission  
Dario Tamburrano (The Left), Mario Furore (The Left)  
(8 June 2026)**

*Subject:* Biodigester in Colle Monfortani (Rome) and protecting potable groundwater

Lazio Region has given the green light for a private biodigester, ‘Salone’, to be built in Rome (via Prenestina, Colle Monfortani), <sup>(1)</sup> with an annual processing capacity of 75 000 tonnes of organic waste.

The proposed site is a few hundred metres from the organic farm attached to the Sereni agricultural school <sup>(2)</sup>, whose wines include Vinitaly award winners <sup>(3)</sup>. The biodigester is expected to cause an increase in heavy vehicle traffic along the narrow via Prenestina, which is already congested on account of traffic from the nearby major waste treatment facilities in Rocca Cencia (Ama <sup>(4)</sup> and Porcarelli <sup>(5)</sup>).

Authorisation documents give the express go-ahead <sup>(6)</sup> for the facility to be located in groundwater protection areas from which drinking water is drawn, and state that ‘no restrictions shall be placed on activities to be carried out in these areas’.

This implies that there is no prohibition on building a waste treatment facility — or indeed on activities of any kind — in an aquifer protection area that feeds an aqueduct.

In light of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is Italy correctly applying the Water Framework Directive in the case of the ‘Salone’ biodigester; if not, what action does the Commission intend to take?
2. Is it considering including this case in EU Pilot Procedure (2019)9541 on waste management in Lazio?

Submitted: 8.6.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission  
(25 August 2026)**

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) <sup>(1)</sup> requires Member States to prevent the deterioration of the status of water bodies and to carry out a prior assessment of the potential impacts of a new project if this may pose a risk in this respect.

Such an assessment can be combined with an environmental impact assessment (EIA) or other assessments required under EU or national law.

The WFD also set out restrictive conditions under which an exemption according to Article 4(7) of the WFD can be invoked to authorise a project even if it would result in the deterioration of the status of the body of water concerned <sup>(2)</sup>.

Based on the information available, the competent national authorities have assessed the potential impact of the project on water as part of the EIA and no objections or positive opinions with conditions were issued by the Autorità di Bacino Distrettuale dell’Appennino Centrale and the Dipartimento III ‘Ambiente e Tutela del Territorio’ of the Rome Metropolitan City.

The Commission has therefore in this case no basis to conclude that the WFD has not been correctly applied by Italy. In its role as guardian of the Treaties, the Commission monitors Member States’ compliance with EU law, focusing its enforcement action on systemic issues of non-compliance <sup>(3)</sup>. National courts are competent to verify compliance with EU law for individual cases.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.regione.lazio.it/documenti/84785>, <https://www.regione.lazio.it/sites/default/files/documentazione/2024/DD-G03625-29-03-2024.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.agrariosereni.edu.it/pagine/azienda-agraria>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.agrariosereni.edu.it/pagine/vinitaly-2025>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.amaroma.it/it/azienda/impianti/6852-polo-impiantistico-di-rocca-cencia>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.porcarelli.com/porcarelli-gino-e-co/>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.regione.lazio.it/sites/default/files/documentazione/2024/DD-G03625-29-03-2024.pdf> p.10.

<sup>(1)</sup> Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1-73, as amended by Commission Directive 2014/101/EU of 30 October 2014, OJ L 311, 31.10.2014, p. 32-35.

<sup>(2)</sup> On 26 May 2026 the Commission published guidelines on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive during the permitting of new projects and existing activities with a particular focus on the mining sector to offer clarifications in line with recent amendment of water-related legislation (Water Framework Directive, Environment Quality Standards Directive and Groundwater Directive), OJ C, C/2026/2836.

<sup>(3)</sup> As set out in Communication of 19 January 2017: EU law: Better results through better application, C/2016/8600, OJ C 18, 19.1.2017, and in Communication of 13 October 2022: Enforcing EU law for a Europe that delivers, COM(2022) 518 final.

Based on the above, the Commission does not consider including this matter in the pre-infringement dialogue (previously Pilot) procedure mentioned by the Honourable Members on waste management in Lazio at this point in time.

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