

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002750/26
to the Commission
Gaetano Pedulla' (The Left)
(2 July 2026)**

Subject: Compatibility of regional legislation in Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol with Directive 2003/4/EC on access to environmental information

Question No 5/04076 of 10 June 2025 ⁽¹⁾ to the Italian Chamber of Deputies and question No 218/XVII of 8 June 2026 ⁽²⁾ to the Regional Council of Trentino Alto Adige/Südtirol highlighted possible issues with the application of Regional Law No 10/2014, which eases the requirements on the region's municipalities to proactively publish environmental information.

In the context of the PFAS contamination in the municipality of Storo, brought to light by the Trentino-based association Più Democrazia ⁽³⁾, the ombudsperson of the autonomous province of Trento has raised concerns regarding the transparency of environmental information and is calling for the regional legal framework to be aligned with requirements under national and EU law.

Although institutional consultations with the National Anticorruption Authority (ANAC) have been underway for years, a roadmap for aligning the regional legislation has yet to be drawn up.

In light of Directive 2003/4/EC and European environmental transparency principles, does the Commission believe it would be a good idea to ask for clarification from the relevant regional and Italian authorities and to check whether the rules in force are compatible with EU law?

Submitted: 2.7.2026

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

Access to environmental information is an important element of the environmental rule of law and the Aarhus Convention ⁽¹⁾. The EU and Italy are both parties to the Convention.

According to Article 7(1) of Directive 2003/4/EC ⁽²⁾ on public access to environmental information, 'Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that public authorities organise the environmental information which is relevant to their functions and which is held by or for them, with a view to its active and systematic dissemination to the public, in particular by means of computer telecommunication and/or electronic technology, where available'.

However, in accordance with Article 7(5) of the directive, certain exceptions apply. Therefore, national authorities can reject a request for environmental information provided that the exceptions provided for in Article 4 of the directive apply.

Addressing non-conformity of national or regional legislation with EU law is an enforcement priority for the Commission ⁽³⁾. The Commission will assess whether the relevant legislation of Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol complies with EU law and, if necessary, raise the matter with the Italian authorities.

¹ <https://aic.camera.it/aic/scheda.html?numero=5-04076&ramo=C&leg=19>.

² <https://www.consiglio.regione.taa.it/it/attivita-consiliare/pagine/atto-politico&id=4929>.

³ <https://piudemocraziaintrentino.org/2026/06/13/pfas-a-storo-il-problema-e-riconosciuto-ma-la-trasparenza-continua-a-mancare/>.

⁽¹⁾ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, adopted on 25 June 1998 in Aarhus (Denmark).

⁽²⁾ Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC OJ L 41, 14.2.2003, pp. 26-32.

⁽³⁾ Communication on a Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook, COM(2026)380 final.