



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
 ENVIRONMENT  
 Directorate B - Circular Economy & Green Growth  
**ENV.B.3 - Waste Management & Secondary Materials**

Brussels, 27/07/2017  
 ENV B.3 JD/mf Ares (2017) 3785949

**Subject: Letter to Europe: Stop toxic fire waste in Rome**

Dear Petitioners,

Commissioner Vella has asked me to reply to your email of 10 July 2017 concerning uncontrolled illegal burning of waste in the city of Rome.

The Commission is aware of air quality problems in Rome, partly due to the reported activities. In 2014, the Commission carried out an investigation with the Italian competent authorities in order to ascertain a similar situation concerning illegal burning of waste. At the time, the authorities provided enough evidence of enforcing mechanisms in place to clamp down on such illegal activities. During the same year, the Commission initiated infringement proceedings against Italy for non-compliance with Directive 2008/50/EC of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe with respect to PM10 levels in a number of zones and agglomerations in Italy including the city of Rome. This ongoing infringement case is addressing air pollution in Rome irrespective of the pollution source, and therefore covers all sources of PM10 emissions including uncontrolled burning of waste.

In the context of this infringement case Italy has informed the Commission of steps taken to improve the air quality in Rome. In 2015, the municipality of Rome approved “Provvedimenti per la prevenzione e il contenimento dell’inquinamento atmosferico: interventi permanenti, interventi programmati e Piano di Intervento Operativo per l’adozione di interventi emergenziali”, a pack of measures for the prevention and reduction of air pollution, divided into permanent interventions, programmed interventions and an Operational Intervention Plan for the adoption of emergency measures. However, we are aware of the fact that the above measures may not deliver full compliance before some time.

Under the Treaty, the Member States have the primary responsibility for transposing, applying and implementing EU law correctly and for ensuring that illegal activities are pursued and punished. In addition, Member States have the duty to provide sufficient remedies to ensure effective legal protection in the fields covered by EU law.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Nelen

(head of Unit)