European Parliament
2014-2019

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

29.8.2016

MISSION REPORT

following the visit of the ENVI Committee to ILVA, Taranto - Italy, 13-15 July 2016

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Members of the mission:	
Giovanni La Via	(PPE) (Leader of the mission)
Nicola Caputo	(S&D)
Massimo Paolucci	(S&D)
Nikolay Barekov	(ECR)
Jasenko Selimovic	(ALDE)

Accompanying Members:	
Elena Gentile	(S&D)
Eleonora Forenza	(GUE/NGL)
Piernicola Pedicini	(EFDD)

Introduction

At its meeting of 4 May 2016, the Conference of Presidents endorsed the request made by the ENVI Committee to send a delegation to Rome and Taranto, to visit the ILVA Industrial site, on the third week of July 2016. The authorisation was confirmed by the Bureau on 9 May 2016. The aim of the delegation was to inform itself of the activities of ILVA, the largest steel plant in Europe, concerning the respect of the European legal requirements in terms of industrial emissions and environmental and public health impacts.

The mission included a first meeting in Rome at the Ministry for the Environment and the Protection of Land and Sea with the Minister, Mr Gian Luca Galletti and some senior members of his staff. The following days, before and after the visit to the ILVA steel plant, meetings were held with local authorities, trade unions, NGOS and other stakeholders.

The members of the delegation where accompanied by Sabina Magnano and Lorenzo Vicario from the secretariat of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI). The political group advisors Roberto Lopriore (GUE/NGL) and Raffaele Luise (EFDD) also accompanied the delegation.

Summary account of meetings

Wednesday 13rd July: Meeting with the Minister Mr Gian Luca Galletti and the representatives from the Ministry for the Environment and the Protection of Land and Sea

The delegation was welcomed by Minister Galletti, who made a brief introduction on the role of his Ministry on the improvement of the environmental performances of the ILVA plant in Taranto and the environmental remediation of the surrounding areas. Mrs Laura D'Aprile from the Directorate-General for the Protection of land and water then provided an overlook on the legal framework that regulates the remediation of polluted sites in Italy and in particular the area interested by the pollution originated by the ILVA industrial site. Mrs Vera Corbelli, Special Commissioner for urgent intervention for remediation, environmental enhancement and upgrading of Taranto complemented the presentation of Mrs D'Aprile by describing the set of interventions that she coordinates in the Municipalities of Taranto and Stazze in order to remove the pollutants accumulated in the area and originated mainly by the industrial site and the Navy Harbour activities. Mr. Giuseppe Lo Presti from the Directorate-General for assessments and environmental permits and in charge of the monitoring of the application by ILVA of the integrated environmental permit (Autorizzazione integrata ambientale - A.I.A.) explained how, on the basis of the reports of the ARPA Puglia and ISPRA, a constant monitoring of the implementation of the environmental improvements form ILVA is undertaken. Mr Lo Presti complemented his presentation with an overview of the different decrees that regulate the management of ILVA and the forthcoming selling to private owners.

Thursday 14th July: Welcome by the Prefect of Taranto Mr. Umberto Guidato.

Upon arrival at the Taranto Prefectorate, members of the delegation had a brief informal meeting with the Prefect in order to thank him for the logistical support and the availability of the venue for the following meeting of the morning.

Meeting with Dr Ippazio Stefano, Mayor of Taranto

Dr Stefano opened his speech with a short description of the different health emergencies that Taranto faced in the last decades, from the asbestos of the navy harbour to the increase of cancers among the population due to the particulate matters and other pollutants emitted by ILVA. The Mayor underlined the need for the population of his city to have certitudes on the future developments of the industrial site and the respect of the environmental legislation but also on the necessity to receive adequate health treatments in the area without having to move outside the region for proper health treatment.

Meeting with a delegation of the Regional Agency for Environmental Protection (ARPA Puglia):

Dr Roberto Giua, Head of the delegation and Director of the Regional Centre on Air quality (CRA), explained the role of the Agency in the direct monitoring of the respect of the AIA prescriptions by ILVA. Based on its analysis, ARPA considers that the current AIA requirements, set by the Ministry for the Environment and the Protection of Land and Sea, are not adequate to guarantee a satisfactory level of protection of environment and health. During the monitoring activities ARPA identified and informed the Ministry of the Environment of 12 cases of non-respect of the AIA prescriptions. Dr Giua also noted that the remediation activities are not in line with the established timetable leaving the environment pollutants with a direct impact on health (namely dioxins and PCB). Dr Giua concluded his speech underlining the strong link between the current level of steel production by ILVA and the current respect of the emission limits. According to ARPA the improvements undertaken following the AIA prescriptions do not allow the respect of emissions limits in case of a larger production. This matter of fact is the consequence, in ARPA's opinion, of the interventions done under the AIA prescriptions that are the minor ones while the most important are still pending.

Meeting with a delegation of the Local Health Authority of Taranto (ASL)

After a brief introduction on the role of the ASL, the Director General Mr. Stefano Rossi gave the floor to the Directors of the Agency that provided a large overview of the health status of the population of Taranto. In particular Dr Sante Minerba, Director of the Epidemiology and Statistics Service provided a summary of the studies of the last decade indicating that the population of Taranto has a higher mortality rate compared to the surrounding areas in connection with all typologies of cancers and for lung diseases. Dr. Michele Conversano, Director of the Prevention Department, described the ASL monitoring activities in fields such the control of the pollutant in food (meat, dairy products, seafood, fruits and vegetables) and among livestock (almost 2500 sheep and goats and 90 cows have

been killed and burned being unhealthy for consumption). A specific field of action of the Taranto ASL is the Human biomonitoring with projects involving farmers, women in fertile age and children in order to assess the presence in their body of persistent pollutant as dioxine and PCB. Evidences have been gathered concerning the relation between the proximity to the industrial site and the presence of pollutant in the body of farmers. Dr. Cosimo Scarnera, Director of Prevention and safety at work (Spesal) explained the ASL role in the safety control within the ILVA plant. During the discussion with the Members the ASL's representatives confirmed that the prescription according to which citizens living in the surrounding of the ILVA site cannot open their apartments' windows from 12am to 6pm during the "wind days" still in force.

Meeting with NGOs

The meeting with NGOs involved a large number of local and national organisations active in the field of environmental protection and health (see programme of the delegation). All the speakers pointed out the persistent degradation of the health of the ILVA workers and nearby habitants with some specific concerns on the decreasing fertility rate and the high mortality related to cancers. Another point of major concern was the lack of a general plan for the complete remediation of the polluted areas. The absence of a clear vision on the future of Taranto and of the possible modifications of the AIA due to the recent governmental decree (the tenth) on ILVA are reason of particular alarm for the NGOs.

Meeting with the Trade Unions: Fim-Cisl, Fiom-Cgil, Uilm-Uil, USB

The meeting with Trade Unions allowed the Members of the delegation to hear the representatives from the main confederated trade unions (Fim-Cisl, Fiom-Cgil, Uilm-Uil) but also from the grassroots trade union (USB). The main message by the speakers was that the incertitude on the future of the ILVA plant, both from the improvement of the environmental performance and from the production point of view are a major concern for the workers and their families. The new governmental decree further postpones the complete implementation of the AIA and moreover will allow the new ILVA owners to modify it, with - in the speakers' view - the risk to weaken the current environmental requirements. The absence in the decrees of any reference to the obligation for the new owners to preserve the current workforce of ILVA is clearly another point of concern for the Trade Unions. It should be underlined that the vision of the future of Taranto diverge between the confederated trade unions and USB with this latter considering the possibility of the closing of the plant (as requested also from several of the NOGs) as only way to protect the health of the population while the confederated trade unions do not see valid alternatives in terms of employment opportunities and stress the need to further investments in the environmental sustainability of the plant without closing it.

Meeting at ILVA with Commissioners and top management and visit of the plant

The visit of the ILVA plant was the core of the delegation programme. Members were

welcomed by one of the three governmental Commissioners in charge of the managing of the plant, Mr Corrado Carrubba and by the director of ILVA Eng. Ruggero Cola. Prior to the visit of the different areas of the plant a model of the site was illustrated to the delegation and a brief meeting took place with the workers in charge of the safety of the different areas of the plant.

The visit itself allowed Members to see some of the most critical areas of the plant among others the mineral parks and the GRF department (handling ferrous scrap). Commissioner Carrubba explained the improvements made according to the AIA but also the challenging improvements still to be made, such as building of structures to cover the mineral parks. One of the aspects that was discussed during the visit was also the one relating to the areas that are currently under judicial seizure as part of the docks.

Friday 15th July: Meeting with the President of the Apulia Region, Mr. Michele Emiliano

On the last day, the delegation was hosted at the Apulia region headquarter for a meeting with the President of the Region Mr Michele Emiliano. Mr Emiliano explained that the Region has no power to act on the ILVA case as a consequence of the decision of the National government to indicate the ILVA of Taranto as a "Site of National Interest". Mr Emiliano, stressed that this limitation of Regional' competencies do not hamper the willingness of his administration to find a solution on the issue. In this context Apulia Region had advanced some proposals on how to retrofit the plant (i.e. favouring a switch to a less pollutant fuel and taking advantage of any suitable role the TAP could play in this perspective). The members of the delegation were also informed on the current criminal trial for poisoning of food related to ILVA emissions and which involve the current and past managers of the plant.

Press Conference

A press conference was hosted in the headquarter of the Apulia Region giving the opportunity to the head of delegation Mr Giovanni La Via, MEP to present to the local and national media the findings of the visit to Taranto.

Conclusions

The ILVA plant in Taranto is not only the largest steel plant of Europe with 15 millions square meters of extension and 8 millions of Tons of annual capacity of production but it is also a particularly severe case of corporate non-compliance with applicable environmental legislation and the consequences for the environment and local population.

The members of the delegations concluded that beside the improvement achieved the full respect of the environmental legislation is still far to reach. The size of the plant and the type of interventions required, as the constructions of two hangars to cover the mineral parks that covers an area of 1 kilometre long and 500 meters large, are challenges that require time to be won.

The final goal should be to combine the protection of the health of the population, in

particular the children, with the socio economic development of the area. This will be possible only with the full compliance of the environmental legislation by the ILVA plant.

ENVI Delegation to Taranto (Italy) 13rd - 15th July 2016

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 13rd July

Morning Departures for Rome (FCO) Airport (Flight AZ 195: 11.25-13.30) and transfer by bus to the Ministry for the Environment and the Protection of Land and Sea.

15:00 **Meeting with the Minister *Mr Gian Luca Galletti* and the representatives from the Ministry for the Environment and the Protection of Land and Sea**, among them *Mrs Vera Corbelli*, Special Commissioner for urgent intervention for remediation, environmental enhancement and upgrading of Taranto and *Mr. Giuseppe Lo Presti* (Director) – Directorate-General for assessments and environmental permits,
Venue: *Ministry headquarter, Via C. Colombo 44, Rome*

17:30 Transfer by minibus to Rome Airport and flight to Bari airport (Flight AZ 1611: 19:35-20:40)

21:00 Arrival to Bari for dinner (own expenses) and transfer by bus to Taranto (duration approx. 1:30)

Thursday 14th July

8:40 Transfer from the Hotel Akropolis to the Prefecture of Taranto
Venues for all meetings: *Via Anfiteatro, 8 -3rd floor (Salone di Rappresentanza)*

9.00 **Welcome by the Prefect of Taranto *Mr. Umberto Guidato.***

9.15 **Meeting with *Dr Ippazio Stefano*, Mayor of Taranto**

9:45 **Meeting with a delegation of the Regional Agency for Environmental Protection (ARPA Puglia):**
- Dr Roberto Giua, Head of the delegation and Director of the Regional Centre on Air quality (CRA)
- Dr Maria Spartera. Director of the Province department of Taranto.
- Dr Vittorio Esposito, Director of the Territorial service and of the specialised Centre on Micropollutant (DAP) of Taranto.
- Dr Domenico Gramegna, Executive Water and Soils (UOS)

11:10 **Meeting with the Director General of Local Health Authority of Taranto (ASL) *Mr. Stefano Rossi.*** Will also attend *dr. Michele Conversano*, Director of the Prevention Department, *dr. Cosimo Scarnera*, Director of Prevention and safety at work (Spesal) and *dr Sante Minerba*, Director of the Epidemiology and

Statistics Service.

12.10 **Meeting with NGOs:** Legambiente Taranto *(Mr. Leo Corvace),* WWF Taranto *(Mr. Fabio Millarte),* Peacelink *(Mr. Alessandro Mareschotti and Ms. Antonia Battaglia),* Legamjonici (*Daniela Spera*), Taranto LIDER *(Roberta Villa and* Cittadini Liberi e Pensanti (*Cataldo Ranieri*).

12:50 **Meeting with the Trade Unions:** *Fim-Cisl, Fiom-Cgil, Uilm-Uil, USB*

13:30 Transfer from Prefecture to the ILVA plant

14:00 Welcome and lunch at ILVA plant.
Meeting at ILVA with Commissioner Corrado Carrubba and top management, visit of the plant
Venue: *ILVA plant - Strada statale Appia km 649*

19:30 Transfer from ILVA plant to Hotel Akropolis

<u>Friday 15th July</u>

8.30 Transfer by bus from the hotel to Region Apulia premises
Venues for all meetings: *Region Apulia - Via Gentile 52, Bari*

10:15 **Meeting with the President of the Puglia Region, *Mr. Michele Emiliano***

11:15 **Press Conference**

12:00 End of the Press Conference
Depending on flights departure, direct transfer to Bari Palese Airport or to a restaurant in Bari (at own expenses) and then to the Airport.