The operational programmes under the 2000-2006 Community support framework for Greece have not yet been approved and the projects are not therefore officially known yet. The Commission would point out in this connection that the choice of these projects is a matter for the Member States and that Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds (1) does not provide for a separate application for each project.


(2001/C 261 E/089)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0311/01

by Luigi Cesaro (PPE-DE) to the Commission

(13 February 2001)

Subject: Emergency caused by waste in Naples

For some days now eighty-one municipalities in the province of Naples, comprising one million inhabitants, have been involved in a major ‘waste emergency’. What has now become an environmental disaster was caused by the seizure, for safety reasons, of the Tufino dump in the Nola district, the only facility for disposing of 2 500 tonnes of waste every day. Refuse sacks lying in the streets, overflowing bins and the resulting stench clearly demonstrate the scale of the health and hygiene emergency.

The authority responsible for waste in Campania, which has been in an emergency situation for some time, has so far not produced positive results, in that the planned disposal plants have not been built, confirming and worsening Campania’s role as the ‘dustbin of Italy’.

1. Since this environmental ‘disaster’ threatens to jeopardise the population’s right to health and environmental protection, can the Commission give its general opinion on the matter;

2. in view of the fact that until now European intervention in the sphere of waste has mainly taken the form of legislation, can it simultaneously support measures to raise awareness and exchanges of good practice in order to improve the situation with regard to waste in the province of Naples;

3. since the system of differentiated collection does not operate in most of the communes in the province nor even in the city of Naples, does the Commission not consider this to be in conflict with the European directives on the collection and recycling of waste;

4. since Order No 3100 of the Ministry of the Interior, published in the Official Gazette of 4 January 2001, transfers all powers for the management of solid urban waste from mayors to the Government ministerial representative, making provision, where necessary, for the creation of special commissioners with executive powers, does the Commission not consider that such a provision clearly conflicts with the principle of subsidiarity;

5. finally, in view of the fact that in the Campania region, as in the rest of Italy, almost 50 % of the waste produced bypasses the lawful market every year and supplies the parallel market managed by the ‘eco-Mafia’, can the Commission suggest the most appropriate strategy for tackling the problem?

Answer given by Mrs Wallström on behalf of the Commission

(4 April 2001)

Under Council Directive 75/442/EEC of 15 July 1975 (1) as amended by Council Directive 91/156/EEC of 18 March 1991 on waste (2) Member States have the obligation to ensure that waste is disposed of or recovered without endangering human health and without harming the environment. The Directive further obliges Member States to establish an integrated and adequate network of disposal installations. To achieve these objectives waste management plans are to be drawn up relating in particular to the type, quantity...
and origin of waste, general technical requirements, any special arrangements for particular wastes and suitable disposal sites or installations.

According to the information made available to the Commission, the Campania region adopted a new waste management plan in the year 1997. An objective of 35% separate collection to be achieved by 1999 was set, but apparently this was not achieved. The Commission is very concerned about this situation.

Aside from proposing legislative measures, the Commission has taken several measures to raise awareness and exchanges of good practice. In the framework of the LIFE Programme, innovative projects for the improvement of separate collection and recycling of waste can be funded. Several specific workshops in order to exchange information on best practices were organized, including a workshop in Sorrento in 1996 dedicated mostly to the situation in Campania. The Commission published a manual on good practices in the field of separate collection and composting (i), destined especially for the south of Europe, where composting has very high potentials. In this context, a very useful manual has also been produced by the Italian National Agency for the Protection of the Environment (ii).


The lack of separate collection schemes for packaging, oils and batteries may therefore lead to obligations of Community legislation not being complied with.

Community legislation requires Member States to designate competent authorities for the implementation of its provisions. It is however up to the Member States to decide how to organise this. Therefore the Commission is not competent for taking a position on the allocation of competences within Member States.

Community legislation gives Member States the instruments to tackle the problem of illegal treatment of waste. It is however necessary that Member States implement the legislation not only by transposing it into national legislation but also by strictly monitoring its application in practice.

(iv) ANPA: La raccolta differenziata, aspetti progettuali e gestionali, 1999.

(2001/C 261 E/090) WRITTEN QUESTION E-0315/01 by Daniel Hannan (PPE-DE) to the Council

Subject: Working Party on Education and the Euro

When did the Working Party on Education and the Euro last meet? When will it next meet? What has been (a) its purpose, (b) on its agenda since it first met?