

(2004/C 84 E/0163)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3986/03**by Sebastiano Musumeci (UEN) to the Commission**

(6 January 2004)

Subject: Radioactive waste dumps in Sicily

It is feared that radioactive waste dumps are being located in the mines of Pasquasia (Enna) and Realmonte (Agrigento) in Sicily.

It seems that ENEA considered these sites to be suitable and that they are on a specific list drawn up by the European Union.

As well as being subject to earthquakes, the areas concerned have development potential for agriculture and tourism and are therefore totally unsuitable for accommodating highly toxic waste.

Can the Commission say:

1. what preliminary scientific research was carried out in order to choose the storage sites;
2. whether it does not consider in any event that the island of Sicily, which by its very nature should be exploited for quite different purposes, is an unsuitable location for storing radioactive waste, in view of the fact that it has already paid a very high price in environmental terms as the location of the largest petrochemical plant in Europe?

Answer given by Mrs de Palacio on behalf of the Commission

(10 February 2004)

The Commission would recall to mind that each Member State is responsible for the management of all spent fuel and radioactive waste under its jurisdiction.

Concerning the identification of a radioactive waste repository in Italy, the Commission notes that the Italian Government has entrusted a commission of experts with the task of identifying and assessing potential sites.

The Commission has not been involved in drawing up a specific list of sites for the disposal of radioactive waste in Italy. Therefore, the Commission cannot say what scientific research was carried out in relation to the sites mentioned by the Honourable Member.

The Commission would also like to refer the Honourable Member to the replies it gave to written questions P-3519/03 by Mr Turco ⁽¹⁾ and P-3657/03 by Mr Procacci ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 78 E, 27.3.2004, p. 570.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 78 E, 27.3.2004, p. 846.

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WRITTEN QUESTION E-3987/03**by Gerhard Schmid (PSE) to the Commission**

(7 January 2004)

Subject: Galileo

There have been reports in the German media (e.g. the ARD news bulletin of 29 November 2003) that the satellite-supported navigation system Galileo will work on a frequency which can easily be interfered with by the American military at any time. Without consulting Europe, American forces could switch off