

The Chair
Committee on Petitions

JH/r/IPOL-COM-PETI D (2016) 29727]

D 311921 22.06.2016

Signora Claudia Maria Terzi
Assessore all'Ambiente, Energia e Sviluppo
sostenibile
Giunta della Regione Lombardia
Piazza Città di Lombardia 1
20124 Milano
ITALIA

Dear Ms Terzi,

At its meeting of 20 June 2016 the European Parliament's Committee on Petitions discussed petition nr. 0246/2016 by Alberto Cirio (MEP) on the construction of a disposal facility for used tyres. The petition is supported by more than 15 000 citizens as well as the mayors of 126 surrounding municipalities.

According to the petition a company (Italiana Energetica Tire srl) had requested authorisation for the construction of a disposal plant for used tyres in Retorbido, near Pavia, and the Region of Lombardy would take a decision on authorisation on 23 June 2016.

The petitioner and his supporters are against granting authorisation for this plant as they consider that the pyrolysis technology which the plant will use is outdated and that more advanced and cleaner technologies are available. Also, they consider that the plant would have an adverse effect on the local industrial base.

The petition argues that the effects of the plant on air and water would be damaging to the thermal spa industry, the excellent agriculture and wines as well as the (food) tourism for which the region is famous. The petition also refers to the principles of precaution and prevention as well as to the EU's waste policies, which favour disposal and reprocessing solutions with low impact on the environment.

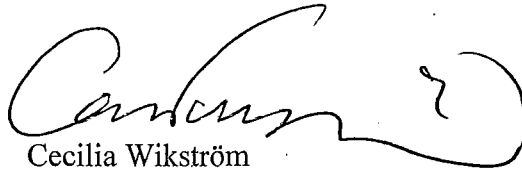
During the discussion of the petition Members from across the political spectrum expressed their concerns about the planned plant. They therefore decided to request the European Commission to provide more information on the project, in particular with regard to its compliance with relevant EU environmental legislation.

In the light of the above the Members of our Committee requested me to write to you to convey the Committee's concerns and to ask for more information about the project, its planning phases, the expected effects on the environment, compliance with relevant legislation, etc.

Members also asked me to call on you to postpone any decision on the project until the requested information from both the European Commission and the Region of Lombardy is available.

I am looking forward to your substantive response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cecilia Wikström', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Cecilia Wikström
Chair