COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS
COMITÉ DES MINISTRES
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

1553rd meeting, 9-11 March 2026 (DH)

H46-24 Cannavacciuolo and Others v. Italy (Application No. 51567/14)

Supervision of the execution of the European Court's judgments

Reference document
CM/Notes/1553/H46-24

Decisions

The Deputies

1. welcomed the presence of the Deputy Minister of the Environment and Energy Security and the Special Commissioner for Land Reclamation, demonstrating the strong commitment of the Italian Government to comply with the present pilot judgment of the European Court;

2. recalling that this case concerns the failure of the authorities to take all appropriate steps to protect the lives of persons living in the parts of the Campania region known as the *Terra dei Fuochi*, affected by long-lasting and large-scale pollution caused by the illegal dumping, burying or burning of waste;

As regards the individual measures

3. noted that the sums awarded by the Court for costs and expenses have been paid to the applicants and the Court reserved its decision on the question of non-pecuniary damage; considered that the individual measures necessary for the protection of the applicants from the environmental pollution are linked to the adoption of general measures;

As regards the general measures

4. highlighted that the execution of this judgment calls for the adoption of all necessary measures to ensure that the harmful effects and the root causes of the pollution phenomenon at hand are permanently removed and no longer pose a risk to the health of the local population; recalled that under Article 46, the Court indicated that the Italian authorities draw up a comprehensive strategy to address the situation, set up an independent monitoring mechanism, and establish a public information platform;

5. welcomed, in this context, the prompt adoption by the Italian authorities of a comprehensive strategy to tackle the different facets of this structural problem and ensure the depollution, securing and reclamation of the areas concerned; noted positively, in this connection, the appointment of a Special Commissioner to guide and coordinate the adoption of the required measures;

6. invited the authorities to pursue their efforts in the implementation of their strategy, ensuring its regular update, coordination among the stakeholders involved, adequate financial and human resources and forms of civil society participation; highlighted the need to ensure that decontamination interventions are carried out in a timely manner and cover all areas concerned; invited the authorities to keep the Committee informed of the progress and impact in each key area of the strategy;

7. noted the available information indicating the persistence of episodes of illegal dumping and incineration of waste; noted with interest, in this connection, the adoption, in 2025, of legislation to strengthen the criminal law response to these types of offences; and invited the authorities to provide information on its implementation;

8. noted with interest that the authorities have conferred the task of monitoring the implementation of the adoption of the remedial actions under their strategy to the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research; called on them to ensure, as indicated by the Court, that its composition includes individuals – such as representatives of civil society and relevant associations – who are free of any institutional affiliation with the State authorities;

9. welcomed the adoption by the authorities of a comprehensive communication strategy and the ongoing establishment of a public platform to provide adequate information about the situation on the ground; underlined, as the Court has, the importance of guaranteeing that all relevant information is retrievable through a single platform and encouraged the authorities to rapidly finalise the process;

10. invited the authorities to submit comprehensive and updated information on all the above issues and those highlighted in the analysis of the Secretariat prepared for the present meeting by 15 December 2026 and decided to resume consideration of this case at their DH meeting in March 2027.