



ISBEM
ISTITUTO SCIENTIFICO BIOMEDICO EURO MEDITERRANEO



COHEIRS
Civic Observers for Health and Environment: Initiative for Responsibility and Sustainability



**Europa
per i cittadini**

Citizens' Recommendations (a number of Annexes are enclosed to this document)

In the frame of the COHEIRS project (Europe for Citizens Program), ISBEM and ISDE, as implementing partners in Italy, have collected indications directly from physicians and citizens (who accepted to deserve as “civic observers”) living in different Italian regions concerning relevant environmental threats which can represent also a possible hazard for human health. On this basis, ISBEM and ISDE have produced the following recommendations:

- Italian regions should promptly focus on designing and implementing comprehensive systems (at local and regional level) for the treatment of **urban wastes** based on the EU policies, which clearly prescribe that waste dumping sites and incinerators should represent only the last solution after having implemented a highly differentiated waste collection and fostered recycle and recovery of wastes produced by citizens (who should also be informed about the need of reducing waste production). In this frame, Italian regions should suddenly build up an adequate number of compost production plants (which are now very few and sometimes fail in producing high quality compost). The legal treatment (through authorized and advanced procedures) and disposal of **special wastes** coming from industries or hospitals should be incentivized by the introduction of financial benefits for the companies who decide to follow the legal path. In the meanwhile, both for the disposal of urban and special wastes, precautionary principle (stated at Art. 191 of the EU Functioning Treaty) should immediately be applied and **no shortcuts** should be allowed throughout regional laws in contrast with national and European legislation (authorization of waste disposal sites representing hazards for air, soil or water sources, i.e. the incinerator of Acerra nearby Naples, or the dumping site at Corigliano d'Otranto);

1. Italian government should immediately guarantee the respect of all the thresholds set at European level for all the pollutants (i.e. dioxins, dioxin-like substances and many others), especially in those areas where big industrial plants are located (i.e. Taranto, Trieste, Brindisi, Genoa, Civitavecchia, Priolo and many others). An independent experts panel under the COHEIRS program could be created in order to allow a monitoring activity where citizens are directly involved.
2. Italian government should immediately proceed to “clean” the former industrial areas in the different Italian Regions (i.e. Bagnoli in Naples, Porto Marghera in Venice and others);
3. Italian government should not allow the burning of wastes in the concrete production plants, as Italy is the European country with the highest number of this kind of pollutant industries and the environmental impact arising from the authorization to burn urban or industrial wastes would result in a violation of Precautionary Principle and potential hazard for people.
4. Italian government should not postpone the full adoption of the “integrated agriculture” set at European level as compulsory from January 1st 2014, with the use of pesticides being strictly limited, in the perspective of healthy nutrition and reduction of bio-accumulation of toxic substances arising from multiple sources.
5. Italian government should limit people exposure to electromagnetic waves in children, by reducing the number of children having a personal mobile phone under 13 years of age.