

The Standing Committee on the Environment,
Territory and Public Works,

having examined the Proposal for a Regulation
(COM (2013) 516);

whereas:

- a) the European Commission's initiative stems from an awareness of the increasing prevalence of waste shipments, both inside and outside the EU, that are in violation of current legislation;
- b) although the data is partial and incomplete, the phenomenon has reached alarming dimensions in respect of hazardous and toxic waste, the trafficking of which sustains the activities of criminals who derive huge profits therefrom;
- c) the Commission's proposal is specifically intended to address the absence of uniform criteria and the need for an adequate system of information-sharing among Member States regarding the inspection and control of shipments of hazardous waste. The Proposal for a Regulation is therefore to be appreciated for offering a useful opportunity to make some real progress towards reorganisation, both at the national and at the European level, to render checks and inspections more effective and facilitate close coordination among the various competent authorities, also with a view to opening channels for the sharing of information;
- d) the results of work done in Italy by the Bicameral Committee of Inquiry into illegal waste handling along with the numerous ongoing prosecutions in the country have created a solid knowledge base regarding the phenomenon and enhanced the level of expertise. Italy's experience could form an exemplary model for adoption at a European level;

mindful that the present final document, along with the opinion of the EU Policies Committee, needs to be transmitted promptly to the European Commission as part of the political dialogue, as well as to European Parliament and the Council;

does hereby express:

A FAVOURABLE OPINION

with the following observations:

- 1) Proceeding in the manner envisaged by the Proposal for a Regulation, work should start from the next Environment Council of 14 October 2013 to update existing legislation at the European level and, consequently, at the national level, so that significant progress may be made in respect of the coordination of the various official bodies responsible for, *inter alia*:
 - a) the restructuring and reorganisation of the inspection and checking tasks carried out by the various competent authorities;
 - b) the creation of an effective system for the exchange of information that enables the tracking and suppression of the trafficking of hazardous and toxic waste inside and outside the EU;
 - c) verifying the adequacy of the current Italian system of waste traceability (SISTRI) for the purposes of data acquisition and the combating of trafficking;
- 2) Profitable use should be made of the experience gained in this area by Italy through the analyses and investigations that have been carried out by its Parliament, judicial authorities and other bodies operating in this field. Italy should follow the European-level negotiations very closely and take on a proactive role;

- 3) Careful evaluation should be made of all solutions that may contribute to the achievement of the declared goals of the proposal, including the establishment of a special European agency - which Italy could apply to host – in charge of ensuring optimal operational cooperation at a European level among the various relevant parties;
- 4) Faster action needs to be taken on legislative initiatives to criminalise environmental offences, as European bodies have also demanded.