

Napoli, 9 Aprile 2026

Rete "No America's Cup"

Spett.li

**Equipaggi partecipanti alla  
38<sup>a</sup> America's Cup – Napoli 2027**

**Emirates team New Zeland (NZL)**

[info@emiratesteamnz.com](mailto:info@emiratesteamnz.com)

[info@emiratesteam.nz](mailto:info@emiratesteam.nz)

[emirates-team-new-  
zeland.americascup.com/en/contact.html](http://emirates-team-new-<br/>zeland.americascup.com/en/contact.html)

**K-Challenge (FRA)**

[contact@k-challenge.fr](mailto:contact@k-challenge.fr)

[k-challenge.fr/fr/contact](http://k-challenge.fr/fr/contact)

**Tudor Team Alinghi (SUI)**

[alinghi.com/contact](http://alinghi.com/contact)

[tudotwatch.com](http://tudotwatch.com)

**Luna Rossa Prada Pirelli (ITA)**

[lunarossachallenge.com](http://lunarossachallenge.com)

[media.lunarossachallenge.com/it/mediam  
ente/signup](http://media.lunarossachallenge.com/it/mediam<br/>ente/signup)

**Athena Racing (GBR)**

[www.gb1.com/en/contact.html](http://www.gb1.com/en/contact.html)

<https://www.gb1.com/>

Spett.li

**Equipaggi, al momento, non partecipanti  
alla**

**38<sup>a</sup> America's Cup – Napoli 2027**

**American Magic (USA)**

[info@americanmagic.com](mailto:info@americanmagic.com)

Egr.gi

**Equipaggi ad oggi non partecipanti alla**

**38<sup>a</sup> America's Cup – Napoli 2027**

**Alla c.a. Mrs. Greta Thumberg**

**Associazione Fridays For Future**

[gretathumbergmedia@gmail.com](mailto:gretathumbergmedia@gmail.com)

[fridayforfutureitalia.it](http://fridayforfutureitalia.it)

[fridayforfuture.org](http://fridayforfuture.org)

**Alla c.a. Mr. John Sweeney**

**Saily.it Il Portale della Vela**

[redazione@saily.it](mailto:redazione@saily.it)

**OGGETTO:** *Open letter to the Crew participating in the 38<sup>a</sup> America's Cup – Napoli 2027*

We address you, sailing and sports teams, with respect but also with deep concern. Those who sail know the value of water, respect for ecosystems, the ethical bond that unites sailing sport with environmental protection.

Precisely for this reason we feel the duty to share with you what is happening in Naples, in the SIN (Site of National Interest) area of Bagnoli-Coroglio, where justified interventions are underway as part of a "great historic occasion" linked to the America's Cup 38 sailing event, scheduled in Naples in 2027.

We are not against competition, nor against the sporting and international significance that it represents. But we cannot ignore the ways in which this ... "Opportunity" is carried out because these methods raise serious questions on an environmental, social, health and ethical level.

It seems difficult to understand how those who should care about the sea, can accept a model of intervention that risks sacrificing fragile territories and local communities, transforming a sporting event into an operation where the logic of exploitation and economic interests prevail. Sailing, by its nature, should be an expression of balance and respect, not the pretext for interventions that can further compromise an area already marked by profound criticalities.

The decision to use the areas of the former Italsider in Bagnoli in the context of the activities for the America's Cup, moreover, only as a "service" scenario, has aroused widespread protest: both for the decision itself, in an area marked by bradyseism, and because that area should have had a different destination, more consistent with the needs of the population and with what was promised. To this, there were also strong perplexities about the methods of execution of the works, considered not adequate to guarantee the protection of health, the environment and the territory.

We are also struck by the circumstance that no representative of the sailing-themed Organization has considered it important to listen to the Associations active in the neighborhood and the Citizens of Bagnoli, who have been living and defending that territory for years and know its real problems. Dialogue with those who live in and protect those places is not a symbolic gesture, but a fundamental step for anyone who wants to act responsibly: we remind you that after the announcement of the organization of the America's Cup, a network was immediately established in Bagnoli which includes, among others, the Popular Assembly of Bagnoli, Democratic Medicine, Assizes of Bagnoli, Free Sea, Villa Medusa, Lido Pola, the Social Network No Box Right to the City, Political Ecology.

It is understandable that it is easier to move around in institutional contexts and in welcoming and protected environments, such as the sailing clubs on the city's waterfront, but the reality of a territory does not end with official, guided, plasticized and façade visits. There is a Community that asks to be known and listened to, and that fears that this ... "historic opportunity" can translate into new risks for the environment and health.

For this reason, we ask you, with a sense of responsibility and in respect of the values you share as sportsmen of the sea, to inform yourself, to ask questions, to demand transparency and written guarantees.

We do not ask you to give up competition, but not to be indifferent to the consequences of the choices that accompany it. Because the real challenge, today, is not just to win a regatta, but to demonstrate that it is possible to do it without betraying the sea and the communities that inhabit it.

The acceleration of the works and the absence of transparency and guarantees of participation confirm the concrete concerns about "safety" (no longer reclamation), viability, hydrogeological instability, environmental and health impact, and the construction of infrastructures defined as "transitory", but which in reality will become "permanent".

We must remember that the site chosen to host the America's Cup sports facilities is located in Bagnoli, an area classified as a Site of National Interest (SIN), that is, a seriously contaminated territory that still bears the weight of incomplete or incorrect reclamation, of social and economic conflicts that have never been resolved, and which requires real remediation interventions at the expense of the State.

Here the pollution is documented and concerns highly dangerous substances, including PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), PCBs (Polychlorinated biphenyls), lead, mercury, asbestos and arsenic, deriving from decades of industrial activities: steel plants such as ILVA, asbestos-cement production such as Eternit and Cementir, chemical industries such as Montecatini, as well as numerous related companies.

These substances are not a thing of the past: they have now been detected on beaches, in the air and on the seabed, with direct implications for the environment and health. The highest concentration of these toxic substances, more than 1000 times higher than the legal limits, is recorded in the waters around the so-called "filled": the area where the boats should dock and where the construction of the structures to support the race is planned.

This is where the most concrete concerns are concentrated. Pollution is not only an environmental fact, but has already had serious and documented consequences on health: there is an abnormal incidence of diseases such as mesothelioma and cancers of the respiratory system and bladder, as attested by official sources (see the Mesothelioma Registry (RENAM), Registry of Names of Causes of Death (RENCAM) ASL Napoli 1, ANGIR Study of the X Municipality-District 25).

To make the picture even more critical is the fact that the reclamation of these areas, including the main source of pollution, the so-called "backfill at sea", has never begun and, according to current forecasts, despite official statements, never will be! In some areas of the SIN, it was partially built (as far as asbestos is concerned), but not completed, in others it never really started.

We cannot accept and we will not accept, that the health of citizens is subordinated to the logic of visibility, tourism promotion, building and economic speculation, in favor of a few "chosen".

An event, however prestigious, cannot justify choices that expose a territory and its population to environmental and health risks.

The protection of health and the environment must remain a non-negotiable principle, not a variable that can be sacrificed in the name of economic interests or image.

Prof. Gaetano Manfredi, in his dual role as Mayor and Extraordinary Government Commissioner, through his technicians, argues that the risk in the area of the reclaimed area will be eliminated thanks to a system of Capping and barriers considered "impassable", in any case downstream of, or of, scheduled sailing competitions (the AC 39 in 2029 should also take place in Naples). However, strong doubts remain: not only because a large part of the site, much larger than the filled-in, would still remain exposed, but also because several experts question the very effectiveness of these solutions. According to authoritative evaluations by international scholars, the ways in which work is being carried out on the backfill and in the body of water in front of it, could even release toxic substances into the environment that are currently trapped, or generate even more dangerous ones, once reactivated in the sea, and in contact with elements such as chlorine, tin or mercury. Other studies

show that a total "armoring" cannot be guaranteed, both because of the technical limits of the project and because of the nature of the territory: a fragile area, subject to continuous seismic movements, characterized by the presence of aquifers, on site superficial, and exposed to the actions of the tides.

Faced with this picture, the request is simple: comparison with the real communities of the territory, interventions done really well, with criteria of safety, transparency and responsibility. More careful and far-sighted choices would not only be possible, but often also more sustainable from an economic, environmental and health point of view.

It is difficult, in the face of these elements, not to have well-founded fears about the possible consequences, of interventions that insist on a territory that is still so fragile and unresolved.

After the protests in Bagnoli and the complaints filed in court, at the Naples Public Prosecutor's Office, the Commissioner's structure no longer speaks of "reclamation" of the seabed but of "safety".

But there is no longer any talk of what the Master Plan had envisaged, namely, the elimination of the backfill, as the main source of pollution, and the restoration of the coastline existing before the industrial phase. There is no project to protect the reclaimed areas.

In Bagnoli, yet another program of social, environmental and health injustice is being carried out that would result in certain damage to the social composition of the neighborhood, health and the environment, verifiable even months and years later.

**But there is more. It is forgotten that the territory has its own dramatic peculiarity: BRADYSEISM.**

After thousands of strong seismic events, even recent, due to bradyseism and the right alarms, prohibitions, the organization of evacuation procedures, the choice to intervene so heavily and irreversibly, without an Environmental Impact Assessment, in the SIN area, was authorized by imperio.

What has changed for this emergency to suddenly disappear?

Until Spring 2025, due to bradyseism and the evictions of damaged homes, the same institutions envisaged the possible establishment of a "red zone" and, even, the declaration of a "state of emergency", with the need to prepare evacuation plans for the area for safety reasons.

Subsequently, suddenly, the realization of an event of international importance was deemed compatible, with an expected influx of hundreds of thousands of people. This change of direction raises obvious profiles of criticality and administrative coherence, also in the light of the planned interventions, characterized by a high impact on the territory. In fact, the choice to allocate substantial public economic resources to functional works for the event appears questionable, instead of primarily proceeding with the seismic redevelopment of the public and private building heritage, damaged and not, and the full return in safety and habitability of the area to the Community.

The expropriation of the homes of the inhabitants of the Coroglio area, justified by the need to host a prestigious event such as the America's Cup 2027 in Naples, takes on the contours of real social violence for many Residents. This is not just an urban planning intervention, but a decision that profoundly affects the lives of the more than 100 families involved, who would be forced to leave homes, relationships and roots built over time. In this sense, expropriation is not perceived as a shared sacrifice for a collective interest, but as an imposition that brutally affects the life of a specific Community, without real involvement in decision-making processes and without a balance between public interest and individual rights. It is here that the social and human dimension emerges

forcefully: expropriation cannot be reduced to a "technical or administrative question", because it affects fundamental rights, family balances, personal and collective identities.

Here the violence is not physical, but institutional and symbolic: it manifests itself in the compression of elementary rights, first of all the right to housing, stability, and the continuity of one's life. The dignity of the People is also affected, reduced to an obstacle to be removed in the name of a ... "bigger project", as if their story could be erased or transferred elsewhere without consequences. For these people, loss is not only material and economic: it is identity, cultural, affective. A social fabric made up of memory, belonging and daily relationships is broken. Talking about "social violence" means precisely this: to highlight how, behind a choice presented as ... "development opportunities", hides a disproportionate human cost, paid by a few for an uncertain benefit and distributed elsewhere. The city does not tell its past, it contains it: erasing a place therefore also means erasing the lives that built it.

The America's Cup also shatters the dream of creating a long free beach for those who cannot aspire to be on mega yachts and in the circles of the rich. There is no longer talk of the forest, a great green lung for the city and of the depolluted, clean sea available to all Neapolitans. Nothing is said about the transfer of the polluted material and its permanence in the area where your boats will be moored. The data collected on fine particles due to the works were minimized, until the Public Prosecutor's Office and Arpac intervened, detecting continuous exceedances of the legal limits which, it should be remembered, are less restrictive than those provided for by the European Community of which our country is a founding and fundamental part.

In Naples, a city on the sea, the sea has been denied to citizens for decades. With these interventions in Bagnoli, the sea will no longer be swimmable for the future, and fishing has long been prohibited.

Know that in the port built for your mega yachts you will not be able to swim or fish!

Among the main arguments of the proponents of the event in Bagnoli, the "great economic returns" stand out. But has anyone really verified these accounts, or do we just take them at face value? The promise of economic benefit is a well-known rhetoric, which has always accompanied the so-called "major events": on paper extraordinary opportunities for development, in reality often much less solid than what is told, if not even non-existent. There is an urban and social impact on the territory, not adequate to the needs of the local Community.

The 32nd edition of 2007 took place in the beautiful waters of Valencia (Spain). The city was taken as an example as one of the engines of a development, which seemed unstoppable. Today the port, once served as the base for the famous international regatta and costing 1.8 billion euros, is semi-deserted! According to the Mayor, the city in the years 2021 and 2022 had to pay 12 million euros, and they are still paying the debt. For years, the buildings that housed the racing crews have been waiting for a new destination. In short: the 2007 America's Cup proved to be a heavy and unprofitable investment for Valencia, with high costs, inefficient management and negative and lasting repercussions for the city and its citizens. If there had really been economic repercussions for the local community, perhaps, they would have translated into more adequate infrastructures. Last year's flood raises a doubt: were all the major works carried out, linked to the 2007 America's Cup, the building interventions, the infrastructures designed and built effectively, if the rainwater disposal system turned out to be so insufficient and inadequate? Is it possible that the project had not foreseen the morphological conditions of the places, also in relation to extraordinary meteorological events, such as the one that caused the death of over 200 people?

And again, after the 2024 edition, Barcelona (Spain), with existing port facilities, refused to host another edition, and Naples was chosen.

Barcelona has opposed not the competition, but the model with which these major events are carried out, as the critical issues are many. The urban and social impact was not considered adequate to the needs of the local community (as in Bagnoli). Public costs are high and benefits are uncertain and, above all, privatized: All investments fall on the public purse, while economic returns remain concentrated on a few players (groups of manufacturers, high-end tourism, sponsors, large operators). Expensive structures are built which, once the event is over, do not always find a lasting or useful use for the city and for the neighborhood without essential services.

In a context like that of Bagnoli, with urgent social, environmental and health needs, most citizens wonder if it is right to allocate such huge resources to temporary events. After the experience of Valencia and the rejection of Barcelona, the question that arises is "does sailing bring value?", but "for whom, at what cost and with what consequences?". And it is precisely on this economic, social and ethical level that the protest has focused.

The history of Naples and, not only, has taught us that almost always, these events are nothing more than opportunities for building speculation, for the construction of major works that are often abandoned and all this, excluding the city representatives from the decision-making processes.

For many insiders, the America's Cup sailing competition has progressively lost the taste for healthy sporting competition. This Cup, for those who love sport, the sea, sailing no longer has taste or symbolic force. It is becoming just another speculative system around which the billionaire interests of a few revolve and where victory depends more on the budget for the technological development of very expensive boats, than on the tactical and seafaring skill of the crew. With budgets exceeding 90 million euros, the competition remains de facto reserved for a few teams supported by major sponsors, increasingly taking on the contours of an elite technological showcase, rather than an accessible sport. This is precisely where the rift opens: on the one hand there are those who see innovation as the future of sailing, on the other those who believe that this drift is altering its most authentic essence.

Well, in the face of the picture outlined, where it is certain for Naples and Bagnoli, the future disaster for the environment and for the health of the Population in the coming years, the sailing event can only turn into a boomerang of image for those who take part.

To you sailing teams and your sponsors: are you sure that this is a neutral operation? Or are you ready to take on the burden of being associated, even if only indirectly, with a context perceived as critical in terms of the environment and health?

In an era in which credibility is also measured by ethical consistency, the risk is not theoretical. It's concrete! To pass, for Public Opinion, from protagonists of sport to symbols of a model that ignores the consequences? Is it really worth taking this risk? Or would it not be more consistent - with the values of the sea that you claim to represent - to demand different, more transparent and truly sustainable conditions, before putting name, boats and brands on this operation?

If you really want the good of Naples, of Bagnoli, and the authentic value of sailing with its competition, you can no longer afford comfortable silences, distractions and connivance with national and local institutions.

To you sailors, and to those who lead the America's Cup Organization: the passion for the sea cannot coexist with choices that risk turning into environmental and health damage.

Those who love sailing know what it means to respect water, wind, the fragile balance of ecosystems. For this reason, when governance becomes opaque, when it is not clear how resources are managed

or what compromises are accepted, there is a risk of becoming accomplices - even unintentionally - of something that betrays the very spirit of sailing.

The answer is not to close oneself, minimize or mock the inhabitants of a neighborhood already affected by tumors and congenital malformations, but to raise the bar of responsibility: more transparency, more clarity on agreements, more concrete attention to environmental and social impact. Development, when it is not governed by justice, can be transformed into a homogenizing and destructive force of the most fragile communities. Even before the regattas, it is the credibility of those who organize that must keep up with the values of the sea. Because without this, it is not only the event that loses value: the trust of an entire community of sailors is undermined and, at the same time, the local community is seriously penalized, which suffers the consequences directly. In this context, the Community does not retreat: it remains united in the awareness of its human, social and ethical value, and continues with determination to defend rights, dignity and the future. Even in the face of silence or indifference, your voice is not extinguished: it will be expressed forcefully through all democratic means, guided by a deep sense of justice and collective responsibility. And the America's Cup will also be remembered for these responsibilities, leaving behind not only urban works and transformations, but also the mark of the choices made and the human, environmental, social and health price paid by a community that had to fight to be heard.

*The Committee of the "No America's Cup" Network*