

**Question for written answer E-000394/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Offshore oil and gas operations

The Italian Government is encouraging companies to exploit fossil resources along the Ionian and Adriatic coasts and in the Strait of Sicily by awarding oil and gas prospection, exploration and production licences, thereby posing a serious threat to marine ecosystems and local economies.

The Italian Civil Code provides for 'liability arising from participation in dangerous activities'. That provision could, potentially, cover damage caused by offshore operations, although it is unclear whether these are classed as 'dangerous activities'. Under the current rules, it is necessary to prove fault for any damage caused.

Under Article 39(1) and (2) of Directive 2013/30/EU on safety of offshore oil and gas operations, the Commission is required to:

submit a report by 31 December 2014 on the availability of financial security instruments and on the handling of compensation claims;

submit a report by 19 July 2015 on the appropriateness of broadening liability provisions relating to damage caused by offshore operations.

Given the lack of effective means of protecting coasts and ecosystems and the impact of the use and transport of oil on our seas, can the Commission confirm that, if the above provisions are extended to offshore operations, the new system will also apply to the licences that have already been granted?