**Question for written answer E-000443/2018**

**to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Salvatore Domenico Pogliese (PPE)**

Subject: Definition of insularity at Italian and European level

On 4 February 2016 Parliament adopted a resolution formally recognising the island status of Sicily and Sardinia. Recognition in that form facilitates access to cohesion programmes under Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Sicily and Sardinia are not formally termed ‘islands’ in the Italian Constitution, but, in accordance with the norm underlying Italian law, are merely special-status regions. Over the past few months Sardinians have collected about 100 000 signatures in order to petition for a referendum to have island status recognised in the Constitution, in line with what is already provided for in most European countries, which, in the texts of their constitutions, specify which areas are defined as island regions.

1. Does the Commission consider that legal consistency between European and national law poses a problem when it comes to determining Italy’s island regions?

2. As regards access to EU programmes and development funds, can formal recognition of island status in national law make for easier access to EU economic resources?