Question for written answer E-004451/2018 to the Commission

Rule 130

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Subject: Question E-001684/2018 - Tuscany Region's infringement of the EU directive - failure to

apply environmental impact assessment (EIA)

Further to question E-001684/2018, the projects mentioned were approved by the authorities concerned at the interdepartmental meetings of 22 and 23 March 2018, even though they had not first been checked to determine whether they should be subject to regional-level EIA, as is required by law, for instance under Article 20 of Legislative Decree 152/2006, for all flood-relief works.

Annex IV of that decree, as amended by Legislative Decree No 91 of 24 June 2014 and converted into Law 116 of 11 August 2014, stipulates that all canalisation and flood-relief works are subject to EIA. The minutes of the interdepartmental meetings, however, did not give any reasons why the environmental impact assessment procedures might not have been applicable.

Bearing in mind that environmental impact assessment was a condition of eligibility for funding, according to point 5.3 of the notice concerning sub-measure 8.3, does not the Commission believe that the two projects in question should have been deemed ineligible?

The regional authorities intend to exclude many more major hydraulic works from environmental impact assessments, as can be seen from Regional Council Decision No 142 of 19 February 2018. Will the Commission ascertain whether their approach, namely to circumvent the EIA requirement for works of the type described above, is compatible with the relevant European rules?

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