

**Question for written answer E-000378/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Elly Schlein (S&D)

Subject: Saline di Augusta

In its call for tenders 2018/S 159-363815, published in the Official Journal of the EU on 21 August 2018 and corrected on 24 October 2018, the Port System Authority of the Eastern Sicily Sea invited contractors to submit tenders for 'Phase II of work to complete the commercial port of Augusta, expansion of the container yard and acquisition of the immediate area. First and second operational stages'. Following an audit in 2015, the European Court of Auditors deemed that the work, which had already been included in the list of major projects to be funded under the National Operational Programme for 2007-2013 (ref. 2009IT61PR010), was disproportionate to the current and expected flow of traffic.

Moreover, the area concerned forms part of the 'Saline di Augusta', a Site of Community Importance in the Natura 2000 network (ITA090014) and now a Special Protection Area designated by the Ministerial Decree of 7 December 2017 issued by the Ministry for the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea.

In the light of the issues raised, does the Commission not think that the project constitutes a breach of Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora? If so, what action is it going to take?