

**Question for oral answer O-000020/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 128

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Subject: Offshore oil exploration and exploitation in the Adriatic Sea

The Adriatic Sea, bordered by six coastal states (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Montenegro), is characterised by large marine biodiversity and represents a significant economic source of revenue for millions of people living from tourism and fishing activities. Since the issuing of public tenders for exploration and exploitation of offshore oil and gas resources in the Adriatic Sea by several governments, there are growing doubts about the recognition of the importance of the sea and its exceptional ecosystem.

The Croatian Government undertook initiatives for oil exploration and approved several offshore research fields for oil exploration in a rather non-transparent and rushed process. During this process many questions arose concerning proper compliance with national laws and EU directives, as key procedures were put in place without prior public debate in a thematic session of the Croatian Parliament. Given that such decisions are also impacting states situated in the Adriatic basin and the EU as a whole:

1. Can the Commission confirm that the Croatian Government has complied with the obligations imposed by Directive 2011/92/EU, with respect to the performance of an environmental impact assessment? If not, what actions can be undertaken by the Commission?
2. Can the Commission confirm that the implementation of the Marine Strategy is in compliance with Directive 2008/56/EC and that consultations on the application of relevant national and Union laws were held with industry, other stakeholders and the Commission? If not, what actions can be undertaken by the Commission?
3. Can the Commission confirm that Croatian law (NN, No 94/2013 and 14/2014) has been aligned with the provisions of Directive 2013/30/EU?

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Deadline for reply: 12.3.2015