

**Question for written answer P-005253/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Operating licences for state-owned beaches: guaranteeing good quality investment and protecting legitimate expectations

Beach managers in Italy fear that EU infringement procedure No 2008/4908 and Directive 2006/123/EC governing services on the EU's single market may pose a threat to both the continued running of their leisure and tourism activities, and to their de facto ownership rights as established by Italy's Law No 494/1993 which guarantees licence holders the right to maintain operation of the assets covered by their operating licence. The infringement procedure has noted that the 'right to maintain' operating licences in force for state-owned beaches may breach EU law.

While it is important to ensure that EU law is observed, at the same time it is also important to ensure that legitimate expectations arising from legal certainty are also duly protected.

Moreover, being able to guarantee continued investment is also important to incentivising the upgrading and relaunch of the European tourism industry.

In light of the foregoing, what measures is the Commission planning to take to promote a twin-track approach that differentiates between operating licences in force at present and new ones, allowing the former to be extended for a long period of time while the latter are immediately put out to tender?