

**Question for written answer P-002962/2016/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Barbara Spinelli (GUE/NGL)**

**Subject:** Infringement procedure against Italy in connection with the adoption of the Stability Law 2016, which allows the duration of concessions for the extraction of hydrocarbons to be extended indefinitely

On 17 April 2016, Italian citizens will vote on the repeal of Article 1(239) of Law No 208 of 28 December 2015 (Stability Law 2016), which allows the extension of authorisations to extract hydrocarbons within 12 nautical miles of the coast 'for the duration of the useful life of the oil field'. It is suspected that this provision is illegitimate, given that authorisations of indefinite duration would violate EU legislation on free competition, and that in adopting the provision in question Italy has failed to comply with its obligations under the Aarhus Convention – ratified by the EU in February 2005 and implemented by Italy through Legislative Decree No 195 of August 2005 – to allow public participation in environmental decision-making.

In light of the above, does the Commission consider that the provision violates the acts implementing the Aarhus Convention and Directive 94/22/EC on the conditions for granting and using authorisations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons? Does it intend to open an infringement procedure against Italy or, at the very least, to invite the Italian Government to modify the provision as a matter of urgency?