

**Question for written answer P-003197/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Offshore extraction of oil and gas in Italy

In Italy, the 2016 'Stability Law' indefinitely extended the duration of concessions for offshore extraction of oil and gas within 12 miles from the coast. However, Directive 94/22/EC stipulates that Member States should ensure that the concessions do not last 'for longer than is necessary for the proper performance of the authorised activities'.

What action will the Commission take to ensure compliance with this provision?

Moreover, in Italy, a number of offshore extraction facilities within 12 miles of the coast are non-operational. Italian legislation provides that extraction facilities should be dismantled when they are no longer in use; however, in the situation described above, this term may be postponed indefinitely.

According to Commission Communication COM (1998) 49, the disposal of disused offshore oil and gas installations is a matter over which the EU may exercise its competence. Indeed, the EU has joined the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea and has become a party to the so-called Offshore Protocol of the Convention relating to the exploitation of the Mediterranean seabed and its subsoil; under this Protocol, the competent authorities are required to ask operators to remove any installation which is abandoned or disused.

What action will the Commission take to ensure that disused offshore extraction installations in Italy are removed?