

**Question for written answer P-003292/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Petros Kokkalis (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Concession contracts for exploration and extraction rights for hydrocarbons

On 3 October the Hellenic Parliament ratified the contracts for concessions for exploration and exploitation rights for hydrocarbons in 4 'plots' off Crete and in the Ionian Sea region.

The concession covers 50 017 km<sup>2</sup>.

The contracting companies have announced that they will be conducting seismic surveys without any environmental impact assessment.

In view of the above, will the Commission say whether the concession for exploration for hydrocarbons:

- \* Is in line with the Commission's new objectives in addressing the climate crisis and the New Agreement, given that the Union considers it imperative - due to the climate crisis - to cut dependence on fossil fuels?
- \* Is in line with the objectives of Directive 2014/52/EU, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, including the obligation to carry out an environmental impact assessment, as some areas covered by the concession are of great importance especially for the survival of endangered marine mammals in the Mediterranean?
- \* Is in accordance with Articles 5 and 9 of Directive 2014/89/EU?
- \* Is in line with EU Court judgment C-474/10, which states that consultations on strategic environmental impact assessments should be open and transparent, and that the public concerned should be given a real opportunity at an early stage to express an opinion?