Question for written answer E-008197/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Antonio Tajani (PPE)

Subject: Bolkestein Directive - Effects of its implementation on bathing facility operators and beach vendors in Italy

As a result of the ‘Services Directive’ or ‘Bolkestein Directive’, automatic renewal of beachside concessions will no longer be possible and they must be put out to public tender on each renewal date.

The directive has a devastating effect on the thousands of small and medium-sized enterprises which have developed businesses, often involving huge investments, on some of the more than 8 000 km of Italian coastline.

The Italian legislative framework has in fact made it possible for thousands of concession-holders, most of them small entrepreneurs, to invest several million euros in tourist accommodation facilities.

Because of the possibility of automatic concession renewal, banking institutions were able to grant loans to concession-holders, sometimes over 20 years, mortgaging the facilities with the permission of the state property offices.

In the light of the above, can the Commission say whether it:

1. Intends to make an exception to mandatory tendering for concessions where investments have public value, as in the case of measures to rehabilitate coastal environments?

2. Will submit an evaluation report on implementation of the directive by December 2015, as part of a major internal market strategy?

3. Will undertake to set up working groups to review specific cases, such as bathing facility operators or beach vendors, and ensure that the latter are duly consulted?