

**Question for written answer E-004042/2018**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Laura Ferrara (EFDD)**

Subject:     Eni S.p.A. royalties not disbursed to fishermen in Crotone

Fishermen in Crotone have not received, since 2014, their share of the royalties their city receives as compensation for damage caused by Eni S.p.A. to marine areas along the Crotone coast while drilling for hydrocarbon deposits in the waters off the coast.

This failure to pay out the sums due is contrary to Articles 20 and 22 of Legislative Decree 625/96 implementing Directive 94/22/EEC, Regional Decision No 3657/1999, Regional Law 10/1998 and Regional Law 13/2005, as well as the programme agreement of 4 October 1999.

The memorandum issued by the Ministry of Agricultural Policy – EU policy department – in response to a specific question in 2008 by Federpesca (Italy's national federation of fishing businesses), should already have resolved this problem as it confirmed that disbursement of the royalties Eni S.p.A. pays to the Calabria Region is not state aid, in that it constitutes compensation to fishermen in Crotone for the real disadvantage they are suffering as a result of their fishing opportunities having been significantly reduced. These royalties are not, therefore, a measure aimed at reducing a cost and securing a higher income or an economic advantage by distorting competition.

This being so, will the Commission call on Calabria's regional administration, Crotone's municipal council and neighbouring municipal councils to take steps to disburse, within a specific and short time frame, the royalties owed from 2014 onwards?

How will it protect Crotone's fishermen further in regard to their professional activity having being curtailed through the loss of part of their fishing grounds caused by Eni S.p.A.?