

Question for written answer E-003893/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Ignazio Corrao (NI)

Subject: Port safety in Lampedusa and Gela

Directive 2005/65/EC and Regulation (EC) No 725/2004 are intended to avert threats to port safety from illegal activities and provide better protection for individuals, commercial activities, ships in port and the environment.

Today, two large vessels in the port of Lampedusa have sunk. For several months they were causing concern because of the risk they posed to the environment and public safety, endangering also passenger ships and private commercial vessels.

The port of Gela is equally at risk. Following years of neglect it has e been allowed to silt up, reducing the depth to just 40 centimetres, with large vessels being abandoned and commercial maritime activities, including fishing and shipbuilding, coming to a complete halt.

Under Article 10 of the above directive, Member States are required to review safety plans at least once every five years.

In view this:

1. Can the Commission indicate the current state of play regarding port safety in Sicily and Sardinia?
2. Do the ports of Lampedusa and Gela meet the requirements of the above directive and regulation?
3. Will the Commission earmark funding for port safety and improvement initiatives in the 2021-2027 programming period?