Subject: Amendment of legislation on environmental licensing procedures and Directive 2011/92

Economic recovery in the EU after the pandemic should be combined with the fight against the climate crisis and the loss of biodiversity, with a focus on EIA. However, the Greek government, using a fast-track procedure and without the Hellenic Parliament fully functioning due to COVID19, and in the face of strong opposition from NGOs and citizens, is changing the legislation on issues relating to environmental licensing procedures, waste management, etc. It is essentially legislating to abolish consultation, by increasing the length of validity of decisions approving environmental terms and the stages in which a public authority or the public may not be consulted, resulting in the elimination of public participation from EIA procedures: this is incompatible with Directive 2011/92/EC (Articles 6, 11), Article 191 of the EU Treaty and the Aarhus Convention (Article 6 (10)). It is also at odds with Directive 2011/92/EU as regards exemptions from the EIA procedure of categories of project which may have a significant impact on the environment.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Is it aware of the proposed changes to the legislation? Are these changes consistent with the application of EU law?

2. More specifically, do the above arrangements comply with the objectives and provisions of the relevant directives?