Subject: Concessions of state-owned land for the maritime sector in Italy

From a constitutional point of view, the regulation of the use of state-owned property falls within the exclusive legislative competence of the state. Italian Law No 145/2018 provided for the extension of the validity of current state-owned maritime property concessions until 31/12/2033.

This law is considered to be in breach of Directive 2006/123/EC on services, known as the ‘Bolkestein’ Directive, despite the fact that the planned extension is necessary in order to carry out a timely reform of the sector and also to assist with the growing costs that operators in the sector are having to bear as a result of bad weather and coastal erosion.

The Commission has initiated infringement proceedings against Italy for failure to implement the directive.

The COVID emergency has already seriously affected the Italian beach sector, which has suffered losses of EUR 18.4 billion, EUR 8 billion of which have been losses of earnings from foreign tourists and EUR 10.4 billion from Italian tourists.

In view of this:

1. Will the Commission take note that the economic upheavals linked to the pandemic have led to an unprecedented crisis for the beach sector?

2. Will it, in the light of this objective problem, reassess whether there are still grounds for launching an infringement procedure and clarify how precisely the directive in question should be enforced?