

**Question for written answer E-000342/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE), **Eleonora Evi** (Verts/ALE), **Piernicola Pedicini** (Verts/ALE), **Ignazio Corrao** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Laws for geological storage of carbon dioxide in Italy

Article 60a of Italy's Simplification Decree introduces provisions regulating the identification of areas for geological storage of carbon dioxide, preliminary storage authorisation permits, experimental exploration projects and the drawing up of programme contracts.

Depleted hydrocarbon fields lying under Italy's seabed are viewed as suitable sites for experimental CO₂ geological storage programmes. Experimental programmes involving a total volume for CO₂ geological storage of less than 100 kilotons are not subject to any environmental assessment requirements. The decree inserts a threshold (Article 4 of Directive 2014/52/EU) without, however, taking account of the selection criteria set out in Annex III to said Directive.

Various NGOs have highlighted how the provisions permit CO₂ storage projects to be launched – 'in some cases without an environmental impact assessment and excluding the agreement with the regions for projects involving storage at sea' – in depleted hydrocarbon fields, avoiding the costs of environmental restoration. Carbon dioxide could be stored in depleted hydrocarbon wells 'lying above natural seismic sources that have not been assessed for risk'.

Does the Commission consider these provisions to be at odds with the information conveyed in its answer to question E-005352/2020 and with Directives 2009/31/EC and 2014/52/EU?