Question for written answer E-001001/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: *Trans Adriatic Pipeline* (TAP) project: breech of environmental rules

The Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) is part of the Southern Gas Corridor for the transport of natural gas from the Shah Deniz II fields to Europe.

TAP AG announced, on 31 December 2020, that the first gas had reached Italy, which was in line with what was laid down in the Commission decision on prolonging authorisation[1].

According to the Mayor of Melendugno, the point at which the TAP makes landfall, those claims are not true, since as at 31 December 2020, the section of the gas pipeline from Melendugno to Mesagne, for which the Snam is responsible, was still not complete and had not been tested, nor had 'the test certificates, fire service authorisations or operating licences for the Snam facility connecting with the TAP' been issued[2].

On 24 December 2020, the Gallipoli Harbourmaster's Office (*Capitaneria di Porto*) announced that a joint services meeting was to be held on 7 February 2021 'in connection with the granting of a state maritime concession, with a view to the installation around the pipeline of dissuasive devices to stop illegal bottom trawling'[3].

In the light of the above, will the Commission check:

1. Whether the rules applicable to the TAP gas pipeline and the TAP-Snam interconnector were complied with prior to their entry into service?

2. Whether the breeches of the rules referred to were aimed at preventing the loss of effect of the exemption granted under Article 36 of Directive 2009/73/EC?

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[1] https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/2015_tap_prolongation_decision_en.pdf
[2] http://www.leccecronaca.it/index.php/2021/01/02/la-storia-in-finita-di-tap-un-cinepanettone/
[3] https://www.guardiacostiera.gov.it/gallipoli/Pages/Avviso-Rinnovo-Concessione-Demaniale-Marittima-TAP.aspx