Question for written answer E-002761/2021 to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Simplification of procedures to authorise renewable energy plants planned in the NRRP and irreversible damage to archaeological and landscape heritage

Reform 1.1 of Italy's national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) provides for simplification of the procedures to authorise onshore and offshore renewable energy plants, and also plans to bring in a new legal framework to support production from renewable energy sources.

Under the current draft version of the decree law on urgent ecological transition measures ('Disposizioni urgenti in materia di transizione ecologica'), protection of the landscape and archaeological heritage would be drastically undermined through the introduction of presumed consent and the exclusion, to a significant extent, of heritage bodies from environmental impact assessment and prior assessment procedures, from building conservation and from the protection of areas of significant public interest.

Doing away with responsibility for 'areas adjacent to' renewable energy plants and with pre-emptive archaeology would open the way to irreversible damage being done to the landscape and the archaeological heritage, bringing work to an abrupt halt for the benefit of these plants. The moves to lessen red tape envisaged in the NRRP must ensure that the landscape and the archaeological heritage are protected.

This being so:

- 1. What is the Commission's opinion of landscape protection being undermined because of the NRRP's goals and a failure to abide by the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, of which Italy is a signatory and from which standards for pre-emptive archaeology are derived?
- 2. Will it issue guidelines that combine protection of archaeological heritage and the landscape with energy transition?