

**Question for written answer E-003211/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Ignazio Corrao** (Verts/ALE)

**Subject:** The invasion of mega photovoltaic (solar) parks in Sicily to the benefit of multinationals and to the detriment of the landscape, agriculture and sustainable tourism

Over the last two years, 209 projects for the construction of mega solar parks have been submitted in Sicily, covering an area of around 14 592 hectares.

Companies and multinationals are offering farmers a rental price per hectare of up to EUR 3 000 per year or EUR 30 000 per hectare to purchase the land.

This pressure on the land is due to the absence of specific rules and the failure to adopt a definitive energy plan that would limit agricultural land take for installations of this kind in Sicily.

In addition, the regional plan currently in the process of being adopted might set a limit of one third of agricultural land to be allocated to solar power, but on a regional basis, paving the way for land take in entire rural municipalities.

The invasion of large photovoltaic plants to the benefit of multinationals would distort the landscape, agriculture, sustainable tourism and the local economy, which are protected by RDP policies.

In view of this:

1. What is the Commission's view of agricultural land take in the light of EU legislation and Directive 2011/92/EU?
2. How does it intend to ensure the sustainable expansion of photovoltaic plants in practice, while protecting agriculture and the landscape?
3. Will it provide a regulatory framework to limit the spread of solar panels to industrial areas, landfills, urban roofs and rural buildings alone?