

**Question for written answer E-000658/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Margrete Auken (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Dredging spoils management in Greece – compliance with European law

Article 9(1) of Directive (EU) 2018/851 obliges Member States to prevent the generation of waste, including by halting the generation of marine litter. What is more, according to the European Waste Catalogue¹, dredging spoils are classified into hazardous and non-hazardous (essentially heavy metal content) elements and the Commission provides specific instructions for further technical guidance as to how to treat this waste².

In its application of the Waste Catalogue, Greece seems to define dredging spoils as 'demolition waste from excavations' only, which is not in line with the European definition. In the context of the expansion of the port of Piraeus, the release of dredging spoils with toxic heavy metals was reported, causing a huge ecological disaster³.

1. How is the Commission monitoring the implementation of Directives 2008/98/EC and (EU) 2018/851 as regards the definition and management of dredging spoils in Greece, in particular in light of the Piraeus port expansion, a project co-financed by the Commission and the European Investment Bank?
2. How does the Commission intend to apply the 'do no significant harm' principle and in particular the criterion on 'circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling'⁴ to port projects financed by the Recovery and Resilience Facility Fund during the period 2021-2023, in particular in countries such as Greece where the definition of dredging spoils appears not to match the European requirements?

¹ Commission Decision of 3 May 2000 replacing Decision 94/3/EC establishing a list of wastes pursuant to Article 1(a) of Council Directive 75/442/EEC on waste and Council Decision 94/904/EC establishing a list of hazardous waste pursuant to Article 1(4) of Council Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous waste.

² Commission notice on technical guidance on the classification of waste (2018/C 124/01).

³ See report from journalists: <https://www.reportersunited.gr/6677/cosco-apovlita/>

⁴ Technical guidance on the application of 'do no significant harm' under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation (2021/C58/01).