

**Question for written answer E-000660/2022**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Rosanna Conte (ID)**

**Subject:** Bolkestein Directive and beach concessions in Italy

Debate has recently reignited over Directive 2006/123/EC (the 'Bolkestein Directive') and its application to beach concessions in Italy.

Commissioner Gentiloni has reiterated the EU's stance on beach resorts, which is to apply the directive and reallocate concessions through tender procedures, thereby putting further pressure on a sector already been hard hit by the pandemic crisis.

However, a straightforward application of the directive without considering ways of protecting businesses is liable to create a host of problems. The main risk is that this would open the door to foreign interests in the name of free competition prejudicial to all small and medium-sized Italian beach entrepreneurs, who are already concerned about the investments they have made and view the future with uncertainty.

In view of this, can the Commission state:

1. whether it intends to establish a mechanism which might not benefit existing concessionaries, taking into account their beach management know-how, the investments already made and the commercial value of their businesses;
2. whether it sees a need to safeguard the business activities of small and medium-sized Italian entrepreneurs who risk going out of business at the hands of potential investments and interests from outside Europe?