

**Question for written answer E-001549/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Ignazio Corrao (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Plan for sustainable energy transition in eligible areas (the PiTESAI) in Sicily

The Plan for sustainable energy transition in eligible areas (the PiTESAI), which was approved in March 2022, identifies areas with potential for oil and natural gas prospecting and exploitation.

The plan puts 70 % of Sicily's territory at risk of oil and gas drilling. So far, 42 drilling applications, covering over 3 000 km² of land, are awaiting approval already, with 12 more for the sea bed in zones C and G.

The regional technical committee has come out against the PiTESAI, citing the lack of assessments of seismic risk and interference with geosites and geoparks. Numerous management plans (for parks and UNESCO sites for example) have been ignored, as well as the rules on special protection areas (SPAs) in external influence zones, and on the ecological network, habitats of Community interest and marine protected areas (Habitat and Birds Directives).

Furthermore, the plan is clearly incompatible at the consultation stage with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (SEA) as no data at all has been provided on its effects, the monitoring methodologies involved, the socioeconomic aspect and territorial vulnerabilities.

In view of the above:

1. What is the Commission's view of the PiTESAI in light of the regional committee's criticisms¹?
2. Does it consider that this plan complies with the EU directives cited above?
3. How will it ensure the plan complies with the SEA Directive in the next stages of the procedure?

1

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1k9EWrNk5CR19WcMiWxo7xKhuqdBwxgft/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=116021999856985067419&rtpof=true&sd=true>