

**Question for written answer E-003571/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Implementation of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

A basic principle of urban planning is compliance with the provisions of Directive 2001/42/EC that require an environmental impact assessment to be carried out prior to the submission of any specific plan or programme likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

The CJEU has ruled that SEAs are also compulsory for the modification or specific implementation of a wider urban planning provisions, ensuring that the requisite survey relates more closely to the final plan (C-473/14 Municipality of Kropia, Attica, 10.9.2015). Moreover, under recent case law, such technical studies are required to meet higher quality standards and be more complete.

In the meantime, however, a number of municipalities along the Athens coast have initiated urban development plans prior to the entry into force of the new case law, resulting in specific allegations of non-compliance with EU provisions.

Given the need for the Commission to play a substantial role in ensuring the proper implementation of EU environmental law:

1. Does it pay due regard to specific accusations of non-compliance, given that such allegations in many cases provide the only opening for a full assessment of the substantive correctness of EU law?
2. Regarding complaint CHAP(2022)01370 relating to Presidential Decree 8/22.7.2016, what action has it taken to ascertain whether the specific urban planning provisions for the Athens coastline are in line with EU environmental legislation?
3. How does it intend to ensure the proper implementation of the rules in this particular case?

Submitted: 4.11.2022