

Question for written answer E-000518/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Mario Furore (NI)

Subject: Energas plant in Manfredonia – in conflict with EU law?

The Italian Council of Ministers is considering whether to implement the procedure for overcoming the lack of an agreement from Apulia Regional Council to authorise the construction by Energas S.p.a. of an LPG coastal storage facility and ancillary works at Santo Spiriticchio in the Manfredonia industrial area. Should it decide to do so, thereby providing for the construction of the largest storage plant in Europe, this would not only run contrary to European policies on phasing out fossil fuels, but would also conflict with the wishes expressed in a public referendum, when 95 % of participants opposed the construction of the plant, three conferences of services that issued negative opinions and the fact that Apulia Regional Council has refused to sanction an agreement. The plant, consisting of 60 000 m³ of storage tanks, would also be partly located on land of Community importance and special protection areas, which have already formed the subject of infringement proceedings.

In view of the above, can the Commission state:

1. Whether it considers this project to be in line with the objectives of the Green Deal?
2. Whether it also considers the choice of area for construction of the plant to be compatible with its status as a special protection area?

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