

Question for written answer E-003009/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Petros Kokkalis (The Left)

Subject: Construction of an LNG terminal in Thrace

A few days ago, the Commission approved, under State aid rules, EUR 106 million for the completion of the LNG terminal (FSRU) in Alexandroupoli. The Greek Ministry of the Environment and Energy renewed the terminal's environmental permit¹ in July 2023. The plan is to build the terminal in the Evros region, which was ravaged by the August wildfires this year, and within the Thrace marine area which is a Natura 2000 site ('Thalassia Periochi Thrakis')².

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission not consider the authorisation of such a project to be illegal given that, under Article 6 of Directive 92/43, the construction of industrial facilities that are especially high- nuisance and dangerous and subject to the provisions of Directive 96/82EC, is not permitted?
2. Does it believe that Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43/EC has been correctly implemented, considering case law C-243/15 and the guidelines (2019/C33/01), bearing in mind that the public did not participate in the licensing process in accordance with the requirement for compulsory consultation under Regulation 347/2013³ on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure?
3. Bearing in mind that the changes to the project create more greenhouse gas emissions, does it consider that such projects are compatible with the target of reaching climate neutrality by 2050 and a 90% drop in emissions by 2040 based on the commitments made by the new Commissioner, Mr Hoekstra?

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¹ The permit was first granted in 2013.

² Designated a Natura 2000 site in 2017.

³ Article 9 and Annex VI