

**Question for written answer E-003079/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Projects in the Venice Lagoon

‘Venice and its Lagoon’ is an area protected under the Habitats Directive¹, a UNESCO site at risk of declassification, and is in breach of EU legislation:

1) The Water Management Plan, pursuant to Directive 2000/60/EEC², includes specific provisions in response to the EU Pilot 9722/20 infringement procedure. However, these provisions were completely disregarded by the Italian Government Commissioner and president of the Venice port authority (AdSPMAS). Instead, works have been planned and contracted to increase commercial and cruise port traffic, with the creation of a new island in the lagoon to dump (polluted) dredging mud.

2) These projects include the construction of 7.2 kilometres of reefs and affect sites of community importance (SCIs) and special protection areas (SPAs), in breach of the commitments made in response the EU Pilot 9722/20 infringement procedure.

3) The projects for five or more new cruise berths in the Lagoon – defined as ‘provisional’ but lacking overall planning – and two new terminals are being implemented in stages, i.e. by ‘salami slicing’, in order to avoid conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA).

4) The ‘Europe Plan’, prepared in 2007 for the mitigation and environmental compensation of the impact of the experimental flood defences project (MoSE) following infringement procedure 2003/4762 (31/12/2005), remains largely unrealised.

Does the Commission intend to undertake a survey of the measures in the pipeline to check that they comply with European directives?

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¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.

² Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1.