

**Question for written answer E-003416/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Piernicola Pedicini** (Verts/ALE)

**Subject:** Lack of transparency as regards the handling of the infringement procedure against Italy over beach concessions

On 16 November 2023, the European Commission decided to proceed with the infringement procedure (INFR(2020)4118) against Italy over beach concessions by sending a reasoned opinion. However, on this matter, it has refused to publish even a summary of the main related legal aspects, contravening both its own practice and the overriding public interest in disclosure. The handling of infringement procedures already suffers from a deep lack of transparency, with both citizens and their elected representatives in the European Parliament unable to access the documentation, preventing them from being able to exercise scrutiny over the Commission's conduct when it comes to protecting the respective fundamental rights.

To date, 1 635 infringement procedures have been opened, most of which have stalled after several years in the pre-litigation phase, with no possibility to check whether the Commission's action is genuinely guided by impartiality and fairness in dealing with a matter within a reasonable time. Furthermore, as in the present case, full copies of the Commission documents are often provided only to private parties with a direct interest in the matter, creating an information imbalance that undermines equality of opportunity in the protection of the public interest.

In view of the above, can the Commission say what action it will take to resolve this serious lack of transparency?

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