

**Question for written answer E-000553/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Pietro Bartolo** (S&D)

Subject: Project to build an on-shore regasification plant in Porto Empedocle (Agrigento Province)

The Italian Government's 'Energy Decree' of 27 November 2023 classified the construction of an on-shore regasification plant in Porto Empedocle as an urgent, non-deferrable public interest project.

The project was submitted in 2004, receiving a positive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in 2008 and being given the go-ahead by the Sicilian Regional Council in 2009. However, following seizure of the site in 2013 by the Palermo Anti-Mafia District Directorate, the works were never carried out. The 14-kilometre-long Snam pipeline, which would connect the regasification plant to the national network, runs close to the archaeological park of the Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In May 2022, Agrigento's Office for Cultural and Environmental Heritage labelled the project a threat to the site.

On 15 September 2023, a regional decree extended the deadline for the completion of the project to 29 April 2028.

In view of the above:

1. Given that the project's EIA was carried out 16 years ago, does the Commission not believe that a new one is necessary?
2. Does the Commission not believe that the project runs counter to the Seveso III Directive's provisions prohibiting the siting of large facilities close to residential areas and cultural heritage sites?

Submitted: 21.2.2024