

**Question for written answer E-000715/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ignazio Corrao (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Construction of an onshore regasification plant a short distance from the residential centre of Porto Empedocle

The construction of an onshore regasification plant in Porto Empedocle, close to the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, raises questions concerning not only the protection of cultural and environmental heritage but also the EU's energy planning.

The project, which was classified as strategic under Decree-Law No 181 of 9 December 2023¹, may not be in keeping with the EU objectives of protecting cultural heritage (Directive 2001/42/EC) and protecting neighbouring Natura 2000 areas (Directive 92/43/EEC), the objectives of the European Green Deal and state aid legislation.

The EU's energy planning is turning out to be very chaotic, given that there are already energy corridors for Sicily, such as the Argo and Cassiopea gas fields, the link to an onshore treatment and compression plant, and the pipelines linking Sicily with Libya² and Algeria³ and with Malta⁴.

Given the presence of a regasification plant in Malta and the end of the emergency concerning 'reasonably priced' gas supplies⁵, and taking into account that the project has been the subject of questions since 2008⁶:

1. What steps will the Commission take to ensure that the project conforms to EU environmental, energy and state aid legislation⁷?
2. Is the project in keeping with the EU's efforts to safeguard energy security, to diversify sources with a view to environmental sustainability, and to protect cultural heritage?

Supporter⁸

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https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/atto/serie_generale/caricaArticolo?art.versione=1&art.idGruppo=1&art.flagTipoArticolo=0&art.codiceRedazionale=24A00786&art.idArticolo=2&art.idSottoArticolo=1&art.idSottoArticolo1=10&art.dataPubblicazioneGazzetta=2024-02-07&art.progressivo=0#art

2 Greenstream.

3 Trans Mediterranean Pipeline.

4 Melita Gas Pipeline.

5 Decree-Law No 181 of 9 December 2023.

6 P-6988/2008, P-6601/2009, E-4831/2010, E-008555/2011, E-000387/2024, E-000553/2024.

7 DG Competition case CP 81/2009.

8 This question is supported by a Member other than the author: Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE)