

ORAL QUESTION H-0849/02
for Question Time at the part-session in January 2003
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Enrico Ferri
to the Commission

Subject: Risk posed to the environment and to public health by the plan to dredge the port at La Spezia

The La Spezia port authority has approved a plan to dredge the Gulf of La Spezia which will damage the environment and the health of the people living near the port.

Does the Commission not consider that such an undertaking will lead to a significant increase in traffic at sea and thus have a harmful effect on the environment and on the health of the local people?

Does it not consider that the plan would be detrimental to the environment, since it calls for excavation (involving the further accumulation and dispersal of harmful substances) of part of the sea bed which should have been excavated some time ago on the grounds that it constitutes a Site of Community Importance (SCI) within the meaning of Directive 92/43/EEC¹?

Pursuant to Parliament and Council Directive 2001/42/EC² and Directive 85/337/EEC³, as amended by Directive 97/11/EC⁴ of 3 March 1997 (Annex I(8) and Annex II(10)), could the Commission not investigate the current situation and check whether or not the port authority's plans meet Community environmental safety standards?

Tabled: 11.12.2002
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¹ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7
² OJ L 197, 21.7.2001, p. 30
³ OJ L 175, 5.7.1985, p. 40
⁴ OJ L 73, 14.3.1997, p. 5