Question for written answer P-002219/2018

to the Commission

Rule 130

Angelo Ciocca (ENF)

Subject: Application of the Bolkestein Directive to beach concessions

The former European Commissioner responsible for the internal market, taxation, and customs union, Frits Bolkestein, a signatory to the directive that bears his name, has said of that directive that it should not be applied to beach concessions, since these constitute goods and not services.

This statement, which was made within the last few days at a conference in Italy, is at odds with a 2016 ruling in which the Court of Justice took the view that concessions to carry on tourist and leisure business on State-owned sea- and lakeside land, if renewed automatically, make it impossible to select potential candidates in an impartial and transparent way and to that extent are contrary to the directive.

The EU Services Directive entered into force in 2006 and its transposition in Italy has repeatedly been delayed, not least because of the problems regarding the 30 000 existing concessions, which mainly affect the operations of small and medium-sized enterprises.

In the light of the foregoing, can the Commission dispel the doubt by giving a clear answer to the question whether the Bolkestein Directive is applicable to beach concessions?