

**Priority question for written answer P-002986/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Italy's national recovery and resilience plan: is the Trapani underpass a threat to the Saline di Trapani Natura 2000 site and the goals of the EU's 2030 Agenda for sustainable development?

Measure 1.5¹ of Italy's national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) provides for an underpass to be built passing under the Palermo-Trapani rail line. This project is currently at the works planning stage, where serious critical problems have emerged that make the underpass impractical for the current road system and detrimental to Trapani itself.

According to studies by the local residents committee mobilised to oppose the project, it will be expensive (EUR 20 million) and the work will disturb the soil's hydrology system, which could cause irreparable damage to adjoining buildings and structures.

Furthermore, this will not solve the city's traffic problem as it will slow urban traffic down instead of speeding it up, clogging up traffic on routes out of the town that are vitally important for emergency services.

Thus the project would not be consistent with goals 9, 11 and 15 of the EU's 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

Lastly, the project concerns area IBA 158, adjacent to the 'Saline di Trapani' SCI/SPA and provides no guarantees regarding protection of this habitat of Community interest.

Does the Commission intend to check:

1. Whether Directive 92/43/EEC is being respected on site IBA 158?
2. Whether construction of the underpass is compatible with goals 9, 11 and 15 of the EU 2030 Agenda and the European Landscape Convention?
3. And will it audit the NRRP funds earmarked by Italy's railway infrastructure management company – the RFI – for building the underpass?

¹ 'Strengthening urban rail hubs and key national connections'