

**Question for written answer E-001747/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Damage to the fishing sector and tourism in Orbetello lagoon

Record temperatures in recent months have resulted in mass fish deaths from suffocation in Orbetello lagoon. The fisheries sector has been brought to its knees and the tourist season has been severely affected – a situation that has been reoccurring for a number of years. The lagoon has been named an SCI and SPA¹, and is classified as a wetland of national interest under the 1971 Ramsar Convention.

On 1 August 2024, the President of the Region of Tuscany declared a natural disaster and provided funding of EUR 1 million: EUR 350 000 million to dispose of the dead fish carcasses, and an additional EUR 650 000 to support local fishers and the tourist and commercial activities affected. The Law on the management of Orbetello lagoon, which would allow for the introduction and implementation of structural interventions to protect the ecosystem, has been blocked at national level, leading to unacceptable delays.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of this ongoing situation in the lagoon?
2. Has the Italian Government made any specific demands to the European Commission?
If so, under which fund has it requested aid from the Commission?

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¹ Site of Community Importance and Special Area of Conservation.