

Question for written answer E-004361/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Giuseppe Antoci (The Left)

Subject: Mondello (Palermo, Sicily) – concessions and the shoreline: EU monitoring of non-discriminatory access and transparency in respect of beach management

The company Italo Belga has managed most of the coastline at Mondello for over 110 years. In recent years, the issue of open access to the beach has become a key one. The installation of turnstiles and fencing by Italo Belga has sparked fierce protests and led to the authorities taking action.¹ In August 2025, following an investigation by the Guardia di Finanza and pressure from political figures, Italo Belga was ordered to remove all the barriers, turnstiles and fences that were impeding open access to the shoreline, or otherwise forfeit their concession.

Article 12 of the Bolkestein Directive (2006/123/EC), as interpreted by the Court of Justice of the European Union², prohibits automatic extensions of concessions and requires that transparent and non-discriminatory selection procedures be held.

The Commission has reminded Italy of this on several occasions and kept up procedural pressure on beach concessions through infringement files and formal exchanges.

Could the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

1. Is it aware of what is happening at Mondello and does it consider such practices to be compatible with EU law on services and non-discriminatory access to state-owned coastline?
2. In the context of the infringement procedure on beach concessions and the most recent exchanges with Italy, what steps will it take to ensure transparent beach management and open access to the shoreline?

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¹ <https://ilsicilia.it/spiagge-blindate-a-mondello-hallissey-e-la-vardera-proroghe-illegittime-e-zero-accesso/>

² Joined cases C-458/14 and C-67/15.