

Question for written answer E-004402/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Maria Zacharia (NI)

Subject: Operation of aquaculture units and compatibility with European environmental legislation

In Greece, the EU's leading producer of sea bream and sea bass, the administration systematically proceeds with the siting and licensing of aquaculture units without a substantive environmental assessment. Facilities are located just 50 metres from the coast, even in Natura 2000 areas or in closed bays such as the Pagasetic Gulf, the Gulf of Euboea and the Gulf of Argolis, while the licensing process is based on unreliable environmental impact studies, without substantive control of the disposal of the waste produced (50 000 tonnes/year) and without being recorded in the waste register in accordance with Article 35 of Directive 2008/98/EC, resulting in the degradation of the marine environment, the destruction of seagrass meadows and risks to marine biodiversity and human health.

This is while these units receive aid from European funds (EMFAF, NextGenerationEU, etc.).

In view of the above:

1. Has the Commission assessed the compatibility of the Greek framework for operating fish farms with Directive 2011/92/EU on environmental impact assessment, the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and Article 35 of Directive 2008/98/EC (waste register)?
2. Is Directive 92/43/EEC complied with in cases of authorisation in or near Natura 2000 areas?
3. Has the Commission examined whether the subsidised aquaculture units comply with the principle of 'do no significant harm' (under the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism, see Communication 2021/C 58/01) and the environmental obligations entailed by their financing from EU funds?

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