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E-001878/2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.7.2025)

The Commission is currently assessing the complaint referred to by the Honourable Member. This process involves verifying the clarification provided by the Greek authorities in response to the Commission's inquiry. It should be noted that the Commission is not in a position to disclose any detail as complaints are confidential.

For the time being, no drilling activity at sea has taken place in Greece. In addition, according to the Greek authorities and publicly available information, there is, to date, no reported impact of the pre-drilling activities (e.g. survey or exploration) on Natura 2000 sites.

Without prejudice to the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties, it is primarily the responsibility of the Greek authorities, including judicial ones, to ensure that individual projects are developed in full compliance with EU environmental legislation, including Directive 2013/30/EU¹ on safety of offshore oil and gas operations which establishes the criteria under which a Member State can grant licences to carry out offshore oil and gas operations. The Commission will take action in case a wider issue of non-compliance is established (e.g. if the Greek legislation does not conform with the EU law or if a systemic breach takes place).

The Greek European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund² programme contributes to protecting and restoring aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems, by supporting actions such as strengthening marine protected areas, assessing conservation risks in Natura 2000 sites and developing management plans for them, with the Greek Managing Authority remaining responsible for allocating funding to projects that align with national priorities.

¹ Directive 2013/30/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on safety of offshore oil and gas operations and amending Directive 2004/35/EC, OJ L 178, 28.6.2013, p. 66–106.

² https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/funding/emfaf_en.