

EN
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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.9.2025)

Article 10(1) of Directive 2009/31/EC¹ requires Member States to make available to the Commission the permit applications and any other material taken into consideration when deciding on the award of a storage permit. The Commission may review these documents, including any environmental impact assessment, in light of the requirements of Directive 2009/31/EC² and may issue a non-binding opinion on the draft permit within four months of receipt.

The project at stake is a Project of Common Interest and has received Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)³ co-funding as it can make an important contribution to the decarbonisation of hard to abate economic sectors. The Greek Recovery and Resilience Plan⁴ (RRP) includes an investment ‘Produc-E Green’⁵, one of the sub-investments of which is the development of the first CO2 storage facility in northern Greece⁶, to be selected based on criteria that ensure the respect of the ‘do no significant harm’ principle, and compliance with EU and national environmental legislation. The RRP includes requirements to ensure compliance with the Do No Significant Harm Technical Guidance⁷. Evidence to demonstrate fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets is to be provided with the payment requests and will be assessed by the Commission.

It is primarily the responsibility of national authorities to ensure that obligations arising from applicable EU legislation regarding the project in question have been respected. This includes compliance with Directives 2009/31/EC⁸, 2001/42/EC⁹ and 92/43/EEC¹⁰. National authorities

¹ Directive 2009/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the geological storage of carbon dioxide and amending Council Directive 85/337/EEC, European Parliament and Council Directives 2000/60/EC, 2001/80/EC, 2004/35/EC, 2006/12/EC, 2008/1/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006, OJ L 140, 5.6.2009, pp. 114–135.

² including its Recital 25.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/connecting-europe-facility_en.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en.

⁵ <https://clean-energy-islands.ec.europa.eu/energy-efficiency-measure-produc-e-green>.

⁶ Prinos.

⁷ Commission Notice Technical guidance on the application of ‘do no significant harm’ under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation 2021/C 58/01, C/2021/1054, OJ C 58, 18.2.2021, pp. 1–30 –Measure Id 16831: E.g., the capacity of the carbon capture and storage facility shall initially have a CO2 injection rate of one million tonnes/year and shall provide capacity for, at least, 20 years. It is expected that this measure does not do significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852. In particular, the carbon capture and storage facility shall operate without using any commercial oil extraction or oil recovery activities. Care shall be taken that any possible extraction of oil or gas is limited to the indispensable needs of managing pressure and ensuring safety of the storage sites and that any such extraction shall be done only if indispensable to ensure the safe storage of CO2.

⁸ Directive 2009/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the geological storage of carbon dioxide and amending Council Directive 85/337/EEC, European Parliament and Council Directives 2000/60/EC, 2001/80/EC, 2004/35/EC, 2006/12/EC, 2008/1/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006, OJ L 140, 5.6.2009, p. 114–135.

⁹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, OJ L 197, 21.7.2001, pp. 30–37.

are also best placed to determine whether an environmental assessment is needed and, if so, whether the assessment carried out complies with the requirements of Directive 2011/92/EU¹¹.

¹⁰ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, pp. 7–50.

¹¹ Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1–21, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, OJ L 124, 25.4.2014, p. 1–18.