

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000497/26
to the Commission
Maria Zacharia (NI)
(6 February 2026)**

Subject: Planned installation of the LNG floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) 'ARGO' in the Pagasetic Gulf

The Pagasetic Gulf is a closed and particularly sensitive marine system, the characteristics of which entail the activation of the obligations of Article 191 TFEU and the precautionary principle, as the CJEU has repeatedly highlighted, *inter alia* in cases C-127/02 Waddenzee and C-258/11 Sweetman.

The planned installation of the FSRU 'ARGO' in an area with limited hydrodynamic renewal raises reasonable doubts as to its compatibility with the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU), the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC), the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the requirements of Article 6(3) of that directive.

The Pagasetic Gulf has been burdened for decades by pollution from the General Mining and Metallurgical Company SA (LARCO), industrial activities in the Volos Industrial Area, heavy metals accumulated in marine sediments, urban wastewater, shipping traffic, agricultural run-off and the increased presence of microplastics. The accumulated environmental burden makes a rigorous and fully documented environmental assessment imperative, in accordance with the case law C-411/17 Inter-Environnement Wallonie.

Accordingly:

1. Has the Commission examined whether the authorisation of the FSRU 'ARGO' complies with Directive 2011/92/EU and adequately reflects the cumulative pressures on the bay?
2. How does the Commission assess the compatibility of new fossil fuel infrastructure with the principle of no significant harm (Regulation 2020/852) and the objectives of the Green Deal?
3. Has the project in question applied for or received funding through the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) or the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESRF), and is such a choice consistent with the judgment C-142/16 (Commission v Germany) on the prevention of environmental damage?

Submitted: 6.2.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(16 March 2026)**

Without prejudice to the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties, it is primarily the responsibility of the Greek authorities to select the location of projects and ensure that they are developed in compliance with EU environmental law.

Decisions taken in this context are subject to judicial review by national courts, who are the common courts of EU law and the best placed to adjudicate on such matters. The Commission has thus not examined the authorisation of the project.

Ensuring that all EU countries have access to Liquefied Natural Gas markets is part of the EU's energy union strategy ⁽¹⁾, as it can help diversify gas supplies and improve EU energy security in the short-term, while more sustainable solutions towards full decarbonisation by 2050 are established.

Compliance with the 'do no significant harm principle' is assessed by the Commission if a project is supported by EU financial programs. This project has not been selected so far for EU co-financing by the European Structural and Investment Funds ⁽²⁾.

Further, while projects applying for Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) ⁽³⁾ funding are screened for their compliance with EU environmental law, the project in question has not received CEF funding, and is not eligible to do so under the CEF Regulation ⁽⁴⁾ as it has not been included in the Union list of Projects of Common and Mutual Interest under the Trans-European Networks for Energy (TEN-E) Regulation ⁽⁵⁾, which does not cover natural gas projects in its scope since its 2022 repeal.

⁽¹⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/strategy/energy-union_en.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding_en.

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

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014, OJ L 249, 14.7.2021, pp. 38-81.

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/869 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2022 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, amending Regulations (EC) No 715/2009, (EU) 2019/942 and (EU) 2019/943 and Directives 2009/73/EC and (EU) 2019/944, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 347/2013, OJ L 152, 3.6.2022, pp. 45-102.