

EN

E-001409/2026

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.6.2026)

The construction of a coastal Liquefied Natural Gas depot in the port of Brindisi by Edison SpA may fall within the scope of Annex II, point 3(c) (Surface storage of natural gas) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive¹. Under Article 4(2) of the Directive, 'for projects listed in Annex II, Member States shall determine whether the project shall be made subject to an assessment in accordance with Articles 5 to 10 [...]'

The Seveso III Directive² applies to establishments where dangerous substances may be present in quantities exceeding certain thresholds, thereby qualifying for upper or lower-tier requirements. Member States are required to ensure that operators of such establishments take all necessary measures to prevent major accidents and limit their consequences for human health and the environment. In addition, under Article 9 of the Directive, Member States must identify all Seveso establishments or groups of establishments where the risk or consequences of a major accident may be increased due to potential domino effects.

Based on the information available, the Commission cannot confirm whether the authorisation issued by the Italian authorities is compatible with the EIA and Seveso III Directives nor whether a prior EIA was required for the project at stake.

National authorities are primarily responsible to ensure compliance with the above EU legislation, particularly the competent national administrative and/or judicial authorities. Without prejudice to its role as guardian of the Treaty, the Commission's enforcement action regarding bad implementation of EU law focuses mainly on systemic failures³ rather than on individual projects.

¹ 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 (codification), 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 amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, OJ L 124, 25.4.2014, p. 1–18.

² Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directive 96/82/EC, OJ L 197, 24.7.2012, pp. 1–37.

³ Communication from the Commission, EU law: Better results through better application, C/2016/8600, OJ C 18, 19.1.2017, p. 10–20; Communication from the Commission, Enforcing EU law for a Europe that delivers, COM(2022) 518 final, 13.10.2022.