

A: DVA-UDG

Da: Sime Validzic <sime.validzic@gmail.com>
Inviato: martedì 23 febbraio 2016 03:29
A: A: DVA-UDG; DGSalvanguardia.Ambientale@PEC.minambiente.it
Oggetto: Programme of Exploration and Production of Hydrocarbons Offshore in Montenegro
Allegati: Programme of Exploration and Production of Hydrocarbons Offshore in Montenegro - IT.docx

MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE E DELLA TUTELA
DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE
Direzione Generale per le Valutazioni e le Autorizzazioni Ambientali

REGISTRO UFFICIALE - INGRESSO
Prot. 0004658 DVA A del 23-02-2016

**MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT LAND AND SEA
Directorate-General for Environmental Assessments**

Via Cristoforo Colombo 44

**00147 Rome
Italy**

e mail: dva@minambiente.it

PEC: DGSalvanguardia.Ambientale@PEC.minambiente.it

Subject: Transboundary consultations:

Programme of Exploration and Production of Hydrocarbons Offshore in Montenegro



Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to ask your government to stop the hazardous oil drilling project in the Adriatic Sea.

General comments in relation to the exploration and production of hydrocarbons in the waters offshore Italy, Croatia, Montenegro and generally in the Adriatic Sea.

The exploration and production of hydrocarbons in the Adriatic Sea would endanger marine ecosystems, animals and plants, and income from tourism. It is unacceptable that this would be happening in an area of protected marine areas, with more than a thousand islands and islets. This project is not consistent with the protection of the Adriatic Sea and it should not be continued.

In addition to the pollution that is toxic to marine life, loud noise from seismic surveys destroys hearing in marine mammals and that can cause strandings and deaths of whales who occasionally visit the Adriatic Sea. Dolphins are one of the most intelligent species and they have the right to life and survival as much as humans do; and the Adriatic Sea is the only home to local dolphins and Mediterranean monk seals.

The Adriatic region is an important tourist destination. Tourism is one of the most important industries in Croatia, with revenue of about 7 billion euros, or about 20 percent of national GDP. The positive effects of tourism are felt throughout the entire economy. Protected nature is one of the key reasons why Croatia is attractive to tourists. Production of hydrocarbons would seriously harm and endanger the beauty of unspoiled nature, culture and tourism, which is also vital for the economic survival of residents.

The harmful effects on marine ecosystems, species, tourism, and real estate are amplified due to the direction of major ocean currents that circulate toward Italy, Slovenia and Croatia within the Adriatic Sea that is mostly surrounded by land.

Just one incident similar to the one in the Gulf of Mexico would permanently destroy the entire ecosystem and the cumulative effect of multiple wells would lead to a permanent pollution situation for the region and the health of its citizens. Incredibly, some of the areas granted for drilling coincide with undersea deposits of unexploded ordnance, which makes this project even more unacceptable.

It is necessary for the relevant authorities of Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Montenegro to jointly protect the Adriatic Sea.

We should not allow foreign companies to explore and exploit the hydrocarbons in the Adriatic Sea. Based on past experiences with foreign investment in Croatia, it is not expected that local residents will benefit greatly from this industry but the majority of income will go to other countries.

Instead of fossil fuels, it is necessary to invest in solar photovoltaic cells because they are a clean and ecologically acceptable source of energy that does not depend on limited reserves of a raw material. Investing in solar energy opens up a lot of employment opportunities in a sustainable and high-tech sector of the economy.

I hope that you take my concerns into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Sime Validzic

Froudeova 1

10020 Novi Zagreb

Croatia

e mail: sime.validzic@gmail.com

Telephone: +385 91 5182229

I agree that these comments, with my personal details, may be published on the website of the competent authority.

Attached: I have sent this text in the form of a document ("Microsoft Word")

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT LAND AND SEA
Directorate-General for Environmental Assessments
Via Cristoforo Colombo 44
00147 Rome
Italy

e-mail: dva@minambiente.it
PEC: DGSalvanguardia.Ambientale@PEC.minambiente.it

Subject: **Transboundary consultations:**
Programme of Exploration and Production of Hydrocarbons
Offshore in Montenegro

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to ask your government to stop the hazardous oil drilling project in the Adriatic Sea.

General comments in relation to the exploration and production of hydrocarbons in the waters offshore Italy, Croatia, Montenegro and generally in the Adriatic Sea.

The exploration and production of hydrocarbons in the Adriatic Sea would endanger marine ecosystems, animals and plants, and income from tourism. It is unacceptable that this would be happening in an area of protected marine areas, with more than a thousand islands and islets. This project is not consistent with the protection of the Adriatic Sea and it should not be continued.

In addition to the pollution that is toxic to marine life, loud noise from seismic surveys destroys hearing in marine mammals and that can cause strandings and deaths of whales who occasionally visit the Adriatic Sea. Dolphins are one of the most intelligent species and they have the right to life and survival as much as humans do; and the Adriatic Sea is the only home to local dolphins and Mediterranean monk seals.

The Adriatic region is an important tourist destination. Tourism is one of the most important industries in Croatia, with revenue of about 7 billion euros, or about 20 percent of national GDP. The positive effects of tourism are felt throughout the entire economy. Protected nature is one of the key reasons why Croatia is attractive to tourists. Production of hydrocarbons would seriously harm and endanger the beauty of unspoiled nature, culture and tourism, which is also vital for the economic survival of residents.

The harmful effects on marine ecosystems, species, tourism, and real estate are amplified due to the direction of major ocean currents that circulate toward Italy, Slovenia and Croatia within the Adriatic Sea that is mostly surrounded by land.

Just one incident similar to the one in the Gulf of Mexico would permanently destroy the entire ecosystem and the cumulative effect of multiple wells would lead to a permanent pollution situation for the region and the health of its citizens. Incredibly, some of the areas granted for drilling coincide with undersea deposits of unexploded ordnance, which makes this project even more unacceptable.

It is necessary for the relevant authorities of Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Montenegro to jointly protect the Adriatic Sea.

We should not allow foreign companies to explore and exploit the hydrocarbons in the Adriatic Sea. Based on past experiences with foreign investment in Croatia, it is not expected that local residents will benefit greatly from this industry but the majority of income will go to other countries.

Instead of fossil fuels, it is necessary to invest in solar photovoltaic cells because they are a clean and ecologically acceptable source of energy that does not depend on limited reserves of a raw material.

Investing in solar energy opens up a lot of employment opportunities in a sustainable and high-tech sector of the economy.

I hope that you take my concerns into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Sime Validzic
Froudeova 1
10020 Novi Zagreb
Croatia
e-mail: sime.validzic@gmail.com
Telephone: +385 91 5182229

I agree that these comments, with my personal details, may be published on the website of the competent authority.