

Priority question for written answer P-002485/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

Benedetta Scuderi (Verts/ALE), Ignazio Roberto Marino (Verts/ALE), Leoluca Orlando (Verts/ALE), Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE), Marie Toussaint (Verts/ALE), Lena Schilling (Verts/ALE), Ilaria Salis (The Left), Mimmo Lucano (The Left)

Subject: Alleged EU funding for the construction of the Straits of Messina Bridge

The company Stretto di Messina S.p.A., which is the concessionary of the Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport for the planning, construction and management of the fixed road and rail link between Sicily and Calabria (the ‘Straits of Messina Bridge’), has stated to the press that it recently received EUR 25 million in EU funding for the costs of the works planning phase of that project.

The final plans for the bridge, approved by the board of directors of the concessionary company as early as 29 July 2011, and recently updated, has yet to be approved by the Italian authorities and is still subject to the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and specific environmental impact assessment (VincA) procedures.

Italy has recently provided for the possibility of having a series of implementation phases following the approval of the final plans, rather than doing this through a single implementation project, as is required by EU and national legislation.

In the light of the above, can the Commission state:

1. Whether it has assessed any applications for EU funding for the planning of the Straits of Messina Bridge from the company Stretto di Messina or from the Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport?
2. Whether this project is eligible for funding, considering that the final plans have not been approved and EIA and VincA procedures are still ongoing?

Submitted: 8.11.2024