

The European Commission's decision to include a gas terminal project in Croatia on the list of Projects of Common Interest (PCI) - cross-border energy infrastructure projects - and subsequently grant the project EU funding

Case 1416/2019/VB - Opened on 18/09/2019 - Decision on 16/12/2020 - Institution concerned European Commission (No further inquiries justified)

The case concerned a project to construct a floating liquefied natural gas terminal on a Croatian island. The complainants were concerned that the European Commission had included the project on the list of Projects of Common Interest (PCI) - cross-border energy infrastructure projects - and decided to grant it EU funding under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). The complainants considered that the project did not meet the relevant criteria to be included on the PCI list and to receive EU funding.

The Ombudsman looked into the matter and did not find anything to suggest that the Commission committed a manifest error of assessment when it included the project on the PCI list and granted it EU funding. As the Commission has now provided clear explanations addressing the arguments raised by the complainants, the Ombudsman finds that no further inquiries into this complaint are justified.