

pedalable edibles

Ministero dell'Ambiente
Direzione per la Salvaguardia Ambientale del Ministero dell'Ambiente e della
Tutela del Territorio e del Mare - Divisione IV
Attenzione: Concessione Elsa BR 268 RG, Petroceltic
Via Cristoforo Colombo, 44
00147 – Roma

Dear representatives of the Italian government:

Pedalable Edibles runs an ethical and sustainable 'natural food growing initiative' that first and foremost helps local people access fresh fruit and vegetables in their very own homes whilst endeavouring to make a positive impact in our local area by transforming wastelands into productive community gardens.

We transform neglected gardens, backyards, outhouses, greenhouses, sheds or whatever you want, into productive growing spaces and use our bikes to pedal to each job to cut down on the use of fossil fuels.

We clear and create growing spaces - preparing it with natural compost, soil conditioners and fertilizers - to grow food from non-hybrid, open-pollinated seeds creating the best fresh fruit and vegetables possible. We provide non-GMO seeds / seedlings and natural plant foods derived from comfrey, stinging nettles and wormeries, while striving to use environmentally sound and ethical practices throughout our work to achieve harmony with nature.

We have recently participated in an European Network workshop run at the Lecceta di Torino di Sangro, where we admired the beauty of Abruzzo and saw its full potential for a truly sustainable environment. This does not sit well with the proposed drilling plans filed under the title BR 268 RG by Petroceltic, based in Dublin.

Indeed, the so called "Elsa 2" permit would allow a foreign company to drill exploratory wells, with the purpose of permanent installation. Petroceltic owns also roughly ten other leases off the central Adriatic coast, which means that Elsa is just the first of many other potential leases. We all know where this is going. Ombrina Mare indeed, will show the way. They proposed an FPSO and a series of pipelines roughly 4 miles from shore for the purpose of extracting and treating heavy sour oil from five wells. Elsa and all other Petroceltic titles will not be any different. As far as I could see, these leases are located

along one of the most beautiful parts of the Adriatic sea, in a pristine area, beloved by locals and tourists, which include beachgoers and bicyclists alike, with fishing nurseries and well within the Costa dei Trabocchi National Park that has received financing from the EU.

The presence of Elsa at sea -- with its long term prospect of oil rigs, offshore storage and processing facilities or onshore refineries -- would create unnecessary risks and expose the area to pollution and spills. The infrastructure necessary for the development of Elsa will be clearly visible from shore, polluting chemicals will be used, large quantities of wastewaters will have to be transported and treated onshore, and fishing activities will be affected. None of these oil operations are compatible with biking paths and other touristic amenities planned along the Abruzzo Riviera.

The people who live along the coast of Abruzzo stand to gain very little in return for the irreversible transformation of their coastline into an oil-processing site, since the oil will be sold on the open market and since Italian royalties are among the lowest in the world -- about 4% of all profits, which will mostly end up in Roman coffers.

On a larger scale, extracting and burning fossil fuels is one of the main causes of climate change. Our Earth is warming and its average temperature is rising. Small changes in the average temperature of the planet can translate to large and potentially dangerous shifts in climate and weather, resulting in more floods, droughts, or intense rain, as well as more frequent and severe heat waves. The planet's oceans and glaciers have also experienced some big changes - oceans are warming and becoming more acidic, ice caps are melting, and sea levels are rising. As these and other changes become more pronounced in the coming decades, they will likely present challenges to our society and our environment.

Over the past century, human activities have released large amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The majority of greenhouse gases come from burning fossil fuels to produce energy. Greenhouse gases act like a blanket around Earth, trapping energy in the atmosphere and causing it to warm: the buildup of greenhouse gases can change Earth's climate and result in dangerous effects to human health and welfare and to ecosystems.

The choices we make today will affect the amount of greenhouse gases we put in the atmosphere in the near future and for years to come. So please, for the benefit of the Abruzzo people, and of the entire planet, do not go forward with yet another fossil fuel project.

September 24 2014

Sincerely,

Paul Whitehead
Pedalable Edibles
Blackpool, Lancashire, UK