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64042 TE  
20<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Attenzione: Ombrina Mare - concessione 30 BC MD -  
Mediterranean Oil and Gas Via Cristoforo  
Direzione per la Salvaguardia Ambientale del Ministero dell'Ambiente  
e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare  
Via Cristoforo Colombo, 44 - 00147 Roma

Dear Sir

Attenzione: Ombrina Mare - concessione 30 BC MD - Mediterranean Oil & Gas

We have recently been made aware of the intention to install an exploratory oil well by Mediterranean Oil & Gas Oil in the sea in front of the coast of Ortona within the coming few months. In addition to this, our attention has been directed to the large areas of Europe's greatest parkland, Abruzzo, and its touristic coastline that stretches from Teramo to Chieti, which too are under threat from plans by other oil companies.

As Teramo based residents we love the beautiful Adriatic coastline and spectacular National Parks that have created an Abruzzo heritage, with unique traditions, foods & wines. The 'Life in Abruzzo' Editorial team want to express our concern and wholehearted opposition to these projects, on the grounds that it is contrary to the 25 local resident Commune motions that express opposition to any activity related to oil on the grounds in Abruzzo in order to protect public health safety and the protection of Abruzzo heritage.

Abruzzo is a unique region with a wonderful natural heritage led by its land, water & climates. Its backbone is the beautiful, albeit seismically active, mountains & hills, its clothes, the beautiful costal tourist towns that have won 7 EU awarded Blue Flags. This combined with its gastronomy and wine excellence has seen Abruzzo's sustainable per capita GDP grow to 84% of the Italian national average. The people of Abruzzo are not poor, with their incomes based primarily on tourism and agricultural they sustain their families perfectly adequately, but their incomes would suffer if such oil drilling went ahead to decimate local economies.

The experience of other sea & national park areas in Italy that have been subjected to oil exploration and drilling within Italy, for example in Basilicata, is far from a positive experience. Abroad, the recent disaster on the Montara platform in Australia shows how precarious the presence of oil wells is on the local environment, negatively impacting on the health of fish, the seabed, the end consumer and with repercussions for the health of the local economy. A disaster like Montara is not something that the residents of Abruzzo can afford.

The planned exploration and drilling for oil in Abruzzo is contrary to any UN Environment Programme such as the Kyoto Agreement, to which Italy is a signed participant. In the lead up to the Copenhagen Summit this signifies a step backwards for the Italian nation.

We urge that the Italian Ministry of the Environment follows the UN Environmental lead and fully respects the people of Abruzzo and their beautiful environment, and especially their wish to remain sustainable within an economy that is not endangered or threatened by attempts to rashly invest in fossil fuel mining within this protected region.

Yours faithfully



Samantha Dunham