

**Question for written answer E-000567/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: European Habitats Directive in Montenegro

Montenegro is in the process of implementing the European Habitats Directive¹. Researchers recently observed 17 species falling under Annexes II and IV of the Directive in the Komarnica Valley. Their presence is indicative of pristine and natural habitats that are becoming increasingly rare in Europe. However, there are plans to develop a new hydropower plant in the area, which would irreversibly damage the local ecosystem. Moreover, the plans would affect both a candidate Emerald Network site and a site that may be designated a Special Protected Area under the EU Birds Directive².

1. Is the Commission aware of the dam's impact on the species protected under the Habitats Directive and on the potential sites, and is it assessing this impact?
2. How does the Commission view the potential conflict between the dam's development and the implementation of the European Habitats Directive in Montenegro?
3. If the Commission believes that there is a conflict, how will it address this with the Montenegrin authorities?

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¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7).

² Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7).