

**Question for written answer E-001274/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Protecting Umbria's forest trails

By a decree adopted on 28 October 2021<sup>1</sup>, the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policy established that forest trails are no longer to fall under the Italian Highway Code<sup>2</sup> and are no longer to be used by motorised vehicles except in a limited number of cases. Despite this, by means of Article 4 of Law No 17 of 22 December 2023, the Umbria Region amended the regional consolidated act on forests to allow these trails to be taken by motorised vehicles unless expressly prohibited by subordinate legislative measures on signage, leaving it to a multitude of bodies to set up prohibitions and signs.

As can be seen from an Italy-wide study on these roads<sup>3</sup>, which are often located in protected sites, the legal framework is fragmented and does not provide adequate safeguards.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider these provisions to be consistent with the Natura 2000 targets and the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030?
2. Does it deem it appropriate to call on the Italian Government to adopt direct legislation and measures to ensure that forest trails are protected throughout the country with a view to upholding the environmental standards set by the EU?

Submitted: 24.4.2024

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<sup>1</sup> Provisions defining the national minimum criteria concerning the purposes, types and technical/construction characteristics of forest and woodland-pasture roads, works related to forest management and hydraulic-forestry planning.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2021/12/01/21A06999/sg>, Article 2(3) and (4).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cai.it/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024-02-20-La-circolazione-dei-mezzi-a-motore-nei-sentieri.pdf>.