

**Question for written answer E-001980/2025  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Giuseppe Antoci (The Left)**

**Subject:** Infringement procedure INFR(2023)2181 against Italy for breach of the Habitats Directive

In February 2024<sup>1</sup>, by way of letter of formal notice, the Commission opened infringement procedure INFR(2023)2181 against Italy for its failure to comply with its obligations under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) to monitor and prevent the by-catch of protected marine species, including cetaceans and turtles.

Article 12 of the directive requires that the Member States adopt strict measures to protect animal species and that they establish a system to monitor their incidental capture and killing, in order to keep track of and reduce by-catches.

With the procedure currently still in the formal notice stage, no precise information is available on the geographic areas concerned, the scientific data collected or the official responses from the Italian Government.

In light of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Has Italy provided responses to the letter of formal notice? Were these responses deemed sufficient to remedy the issues raised in procedure INFR(2023)2181?
2. In respect of what specific geographic areas of Italy and on the basis of what scientific data did the Commission open the infringement procedure? What is the true extent of the by-catches at issue?

Submitted: 16.5.2025

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/inf\\_24\\_301](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/inf_24_301)