

**Question for written answer E-004756/2025/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Asger Christensen (Renew)**

**Subject:** Water retention on Natura 2000 sites and sites protected under Section 3 of Denmark's Nature Conservation Act

The extreme rainfall events that have occurred in recent years – most recently the large-scale flooding in several places in Denmark, particularly in the area around Vejle – are a clear sign that flexible options are needed for temporary water retention to protect urban areas and critical infrastructure.

The Commission needs to explain how the current EU rules – including the Nature Directives, the Natura 2000 rules and the national rules under Section 3 of Denmark's Nature Conservation Act pursuant to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive – can be applied in practice in acute flooding situations where there may be a need to temporarily park or retain water on protected areas of countryside.

Can the Commission please answer the following questions:

1. Can the Commission state how EU nature conservation rules, including the Habitats Directive and the rules on Natura 2000 sites, can be applied in acute flooding situations where authorities might need to temporarily retain or park water on protected areas of countryside?
2. Under EU law, to what extent can Member States take temporary emergency and preventive measures in protected areas for reasons of proportionality or force majeure in order to prevent serious damage being done to people, property and infrastructure?
3. Is the Commission going to draw up further guidance for Member States to help them strike a better balance between climate-related risks, climate adaptation and their nature conservation obligations, including in situations where urgent action is needed?

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