

Question for written answer E-000499/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Maria Zacharia (NI)

Subject: River diversion that delimits a Natura 2000 area in Achlada, Florina — flooding events and lack of flood control studies

In the Achlada area of Florina, in the context of the operation and expansion of an existing lignite mine, the Geropotamos riverbed has been diverted and/or displaced. This river constitutes a natural boundary delimiting the Natura 2000 area ‘Ori Varnounta’ (GR1340003), with the result that the intervention in its bed constitutes an indirect alteration of the natural boundaries and integrity of the protected area.

Despite the seriousness of the intervention, there is no evidence of the existence of a specific independent and adequate due diligence assessment of the impacts of the diversion on the integrity of the Natura 2000 area, nor of adequate water and flood control studies. Following the diversion of the river, flooding events resulting in the flooding of road sections and a bridge in the area have been recorded, raising issues of public safety and infrastructure protection.

It is noted that Greece has already been found in breach by the Court of Justice of the European Union for incorrect implementation of Directive 2007/60/EC on flood risk management, with the judgment of 19 December 2019 in case C-24/19, European Commission v. Greece.

Accordingly:

1. How does the Commission assess the compatibility of the above intervention with Directives 92/43/EEC, 2000/60/EC and 2007/60/EC?
2. Does the Commission intend to investigate whether, through the diversion of the Geropotamos River, a substantial alteration of the boundaries of a Natura 2000 site is being attempted?

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