

**Question for written answer E-003320/2026/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Giuseppe Antoci (The Left)**

**Subject:** Measures and regulations governing access to the Silvestri Craters, in Natura 2000 special area of conservation (SAC) ITA070009, Mount Etna

According to information published in October 2025<sup>1</sup>, access regulation systems – including marked trails and other infrastructure to manage tourist flows – may have been introduced in the area around the Silvestri Craters, which are in special area of conservation (SAC) ITA070009, Fascia altomontana dell'Etna, part of the Natura 2000 network established under Directive 92/43/EEC.

The area in question is also inside Etna Park and part of the Mount Etna UNESCO World Heritage Site.

To date, no information is publicly available on whether the impact assessment provided for in Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive has been carried out or whether any further environmental and landscape permits have been issued.

In the light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of those measures and changes to the access regulations?
2. Is the construction of delineated paths, barriers or other access management infrastructure in a Natura 2000 site one of the measures that may require a prior assessment under Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43/EEC?
3. Will it ask the Italian authorities for clarification regarding compliance with the EU legislation applicable to sites in the Natura 2000 network?

Submitted: 24.8.2026

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<sup>1</sup>

<https://aic.camera.it/aic/scheda.html?core=aic&numero=4/06103&ramo=CAMERA&leg=19>. <https://www.lasicilia.it/news/cronaca/3000640/ticket-di-5-euro-per-visitare-i-crateri-silvestri-sull-etna-ed-e-polemica.html>.