

**Question for written answer E-003496/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Thomas Waitz (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Romania's RRF-funded strict-protection mapping and Milestone 34

Project C2.I3.2 under the Romanian Recovery and Resilience Plan, which is funded (RON 23.49 million) through the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), was designed to identify potential strict-protection areas for implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. Romania's methodology states that it contributes to the EU objective of strictly protecting 10 % of the country's land and sea area. However, the draft catalogue published in August 2026 covered only 2.54 % of Romania; analysis of the Ministry's spatial data shows that over 90 % overlaps with existing protected areas and only about 0.25 % lies outside them. The final catalogue was adopted on 31 August 2026, but the complete expert mapping outputs, including excluded areas, have not been made public. The Ministry stated that Milestone 34 carries a maximum financial correction of EUR 25.69 million.

1. Before deeming Milestone 34 fulfilled, will the Commission assess the substantive conservation outcome, not merely the adoption of a legal act?
2. Will it obtain and assess all RRF-funded mapping outputs, including expert-identified areas excluded from the catalogue, and require their publication?
3. If the milestone is not satisfactorily fulfilled, will the Commission apply Article 24 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, including suspension or proportionate reduction of funding, and require corrective measures?

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