

**Priority question for written answer P-002852/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Giorgos Georgiou (The Left)

Subject: Creation of port facilities for aquaculture farmers in the village of Pentakomo

In Cyprus, the creation of port facilities for aquaculture farmers in the village of Pentakomo is being promoted in the context of the Recovery and Resilience Plan. However, contrary to the provisions of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), the project in question has not insured against potential negative effects on protected species such as the Mediterranean monk seal (1366* *Monachus monachus*) and habitats such as the Posidonia beds (*Posidonia oceanica*). The Audit Office examined the matter and published a report on 19 April 2024. The report refers to the criteria for selecting the area and the absence of a special ecological assessment and ends by providing recommendations for the relevant departments (Department of Environment and Department of Fisheries and Marine Research).

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to consider adopting stricter criteria for the authorisation of development projects in coastal areas close to Natura 2000 sites to ensure that the conditions of Directive 92/43/EEC are met?
2. What measures does it plan to put forward to ensure that development activities in coastal areas follow the highest environmental standards, particularly when they are close to marine and coastal Natura 2000 sites?
3. Is there any possibility of adjusting or suspending EU funding in cases where it is found that projects being carried out with funds from the Recovery and Resilience Plan could negatively affect protected sites and that they have not followed the required legal procedures for their approval?

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