

EN

E-001893/2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.11.2024)

1. Lake Trasimeno is part of the Natura 2000 network¹. The Italian region Umbria² is responsible for the protection and management of the designated site and for the adoption of specific measures for this purpose, taking account of economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics.

Both Habitats³ and Birds⁴ Directives and the Water Framework Directive⁵ aim at ensuring that the maintenance work carried out respects the conservation objectives and ecological functions of Lake Trasimeno while considering its value for the tourism sector. The Commission ensures that both objectives are reconciled by overseeing its correct implementation and through guidelines.

2. The Commission has produced guidance documents⁶ to help Member States implement the above-mentioned provisions and to reconcile the protection of the Natura 2000 sites with social and economic needs. Italy has transposed these provisions in its national legislation⁷ and, in 2019, adopted tailored national guidelines⁸ to facilitate and ensure their consistent implementation across its regions. The region Umbria has also adopted specific guidelines⁹ to implement the above-mentioned provisions that are relevant to the case at stake.

3. The Commission has produced a specific guidance document describing the EU funding programmes and instruments for the period 2021–2027 that could support projects contributing to the EU's environmental policies and objectives¹⁰. In particular, Cohesion Policy¹¹ can help supporting investments by Member States in enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, through a specific objective of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)¹².

¹ The site is designated both as a Special Protection Area under the Birds Directive and as a Special Area of Conservation under the Habitats Directive.

² <https://www.regione.umbria.it/uffici-regione-umbria>

³ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7–50.

⁴ Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, OJ L 020 26.1.2010, p. 7.

⁵ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1–73, as amended by Commission Directive 2014/101/EU of 30 October 2014, OJ L 311, 31.10.2014, p. 32–35.

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance_en.htm - https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/natura-2000/permitting-procedure_en

⁷ <https://www.mase.gov.it/pagina/la-valutazione-di-incidenza-vinca#:~:text=Si%20tratta%20del%20processo%20d,di%20significativit%C3%A0%20di%20tali%20incidenze>

⁸ <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2019/12/28/19A07968/SG>

⁹ https://www.regione.umbria.it/documents/18/25116977/DGR+360_2021_Nuove+Linee+Guida.pdf/e2633356-feb8-4dc5-9c4c-2ab32142f2ac

<https://www.regione.umbria.it/documents/18/25116977/Recepimento+Linee+guida+Nazionali+VIncA.pdf/05214a5c-d3ef-43ce-8bbe-1d0e6fcbdfb8>

¹⁰ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/33b54f0d-0251-11ed-acce-01aa75ed71a1>

¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/what/investment-policy_en

¹² https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/erdf_en, Umbria has programmed EUR 4.7 million to this specific objective in their ERDF programme for 2021–2027. Responsibility for the selection of operations lies in the hand of the Managing Authority of the Programme.