

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002155/24
to the Commission
Nikolas Farantouris (The Left)
(17 October 2024)**

Subject: Piecemeal measures for the protection of Greek marine Natura 2000 sites

A report published by nine environmental organisations on the situation concerning the management and conservation of marine protected areas in Greece ⁽¹⁾ identifies serious gaps in critical areas with regard to their effective protection and the conservation of sensitive habitat types and threatened species. Specifically, only 12 out of a total 174 marine Natura 2000 sites in Greece are under a protective regime and in most cases this protection is limited to temporary or piecemeal measures. Significant shortcomings and gaps are also identified in the running of the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency, the Protected Area Management Units and the Nature Protection Agencies, making it even harder to achieve a more uniform and cohesive approach to managing marine protected areas.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission believe that the piecemeal measures taken meet the strict protection requirements of Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna ⁽²⁾?
2. Have sufficient and effective measures been taken to ensure Greece's compliance with the EU Court of Justice judgment of 17 December 2020 which condemned Greece for failing to establish the necessary conservation objectives and measures that correspond to the ecological requirements of 239 Natura 2000 sites ⁽³⁾?
3. What steps does it propose to take for the protection of marine Natura 2000 sites in Greece which is required under EU law?

Submitted: 17.10.2024

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(16 December 2024)**

1. The Commission had identified the failure of Greece to adequately protect Natura 2000 sites and had referred Greece to the Court of Justice of the EU ⁽¹⁾. In particular, this failure concerns the lack of site-specific conservation objectives as well as conservation measures which are implemented in Greece through management plans or presidential decrees defining permitted and forbidden activities in the sites ⁽²⁾.
2. To date, Greece has still not established adequate conservation objectives and measures for all 239 Natura 2000 sites covered by the Court ruling in Case C-849/19 and has thus not yet complied with that ruling.
3. The Commission has repeatedly drawn the attention of the Greek authorities, including through bilateral dialogues, to the need to establish the conservation objectives and measures for all sites. The Commission will continue to assist Greece so that compliance can be achieved as soon as possible. If necessary, the Commission may decide to issue a letter of formal notice under Article 260 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

¹ <https://www.feu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/mpas.pdf>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A01992L0043-20130701>

³ <https://curia.europa.eu/juris/liste.jsf?language=en&num=C-849/19>

⁽¹⁾ C-849/19 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A62019CJ0849>

⁽²⁾ Environmental implementation review https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=comnat:SWD_2022_0254_FIN