

EN
E-002947/2024
Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis
On behalf of the European Commission
(10.3.2025)

Italy's Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) includes Investment 4.1 on the construction of cycling lanes in metropolitan areas and of tourist cycle paths (M2C2), which aligns with the scope of the Garda cycle path project.

The compliance of M2C2 Investment 4.1 was assessed with the do no significant harm (DNSH) principle and was concluded positive, as endorsed by the Council Implementing Decision (CID)¹.

The compliance check is conducted at the investment level, and not at the specific project level. This is a primary responsibility of the Member States, which are requested to ensure that projects financed by the investment: 1. fully respect DNSH conditions; 2. comply with EU and national law, including the environmental *acquis*.

As regards the environmental *acquis*, the Member State would have to ensure that, in line with Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive², any project likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site shall be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The Commission has no information about the alleged impacts of the project mentioned by the Honourable Member on any Natura 2000 site.

As regards Directive 2008/96/EC³ on road infrastructure safety management, as amended in 2019, this Directive applies to roads which are part of the trans-European road network, to motorways and to primary roads connecting cities and regions. According to its Article 1(3), it also applies to extra-urban EU funded roads, but with the express exception of 'roads that are not open to general motor vehicle traffic such as bicycle paths'.

The Commission maintains a continuous dialogue with Italy to ensure that the national implementation complies with the provisions of the CID.

¹ Council Implementing Decision on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Italy, <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15114-2024-INIT/en/pdf>

² 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.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/96/oj/eng>