

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000333/25
to the Commission
Nicolae Ștefănuță (Verts/ALE)
(26 January 2025)**

Subject: Romania's Făget Sud — Colonia Făget area in need of urgent protection as a proposed Natura 2000 site

The Făget Sud — Colonia Făget area in Romania, proposed as a Natura 2000 site and endorsed by the Romanian Academy in February 2024, continues to face severe threats due to inaction by the Romanian authorities. Despite receiving a reasoned opinion from the Commission in October 2024 (INFR(2020)2297), Romania has delayed the formal designation of the site and failed to implement temporary protective measures. Illegal construction, habitat destruction and administrative delays jeopardise this ecologically valuable area. We urge the Commission to address this critical issue and ask the following:

1. What steps can the Commission take to ensure that the Romanian authorities comply with their obligations under Directive 92/43/EEC, including granting immediate temporary protection for the Făget Sud — Colonia Făget area?
2. Considering the lack of progress and the documented violations, will the Commission consider escalating the infringement procedure to the Court of Justice of the European Union to enforce compliance and prevent further environmental degradation?
3. Can the Commission strengthen monitoring mechanisms and provide additional support to ensure that Romania fulfils its responsibilities under EU environmental law, particularly for the designation of Natura 2000 sites?

Submitted: 26.1.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(18 March 2025)**

1. + 2. The insufficiencies in the Sites of Community Interest (SCI) part of Romania's Natura 2000 network are subject to an ongoing infringement ⁽¹⁾, as mentioned by the Honourable Member. However, the assessment of the information available carried out as part of this infringement indicates no insufficiencies regarding the habitats and species protected in the site ROSCI0074 Făgetul Clujului — Valea Morii, including in the wider area of the site. Thus, the Commission cannot establish any breach of the Habitats Directive ⁽²⁾ and will not enlarge the scope of this infringement procedure against Romania on the basis of the Făget Sud — Colonia Făget area.

3. Due to the infringement mentioned above, Romania has taken steps to address insufficiencies in the SCI part of its Natura 2000 network (e.g. by launching an ongoing project which is expected to deliver results by the end of 2025). Cohesion policy supports projects focused on the maintenance and increase of biodiversity in Natura 2000 sites. In 2021 — 2027 programming period the national programme for sustainable development has an allocation of EUR 150 million for these actions. In its role as guardian of the Treaties, the Commission will continue monitoring the situation and, where necessary, may decide to take appropriate action.

⁽¹⁾ INFR(2019)2138: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/inf_23_142

⁽²⁾ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the protection of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7-50.