

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001718/25
to the Commission
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)
(29 April 2025)**

Subject: Planned antimony mining in Chios and compliance with European environmental legislation

Recent publications report that a plan to mine antimony, a strategically important metal used mainly in the defence, electronics and renewable energy industries ⁽¹⁾ and included on the European Union's list of critical raw materials, is being promoted in Chios, which, it should be noted, is located near protected areas and areas of high ecological and cultural value.

The prospect of mining activity has provoked serious reactions among most of the local community. ⁽²⁾ Citizens, groups and environmental organisations are expressing strong concerns regarding the possible impacts on the natural environment, biodiversity, water resources and the local economy, which is mainly based on tourism and agricultural production. The EU, however, sets as its main priorities sustainable development, environmental protection and ensuring the participation of local communities in making decisions determining their future.

In view of the above:

How is it being ensured that the views of local communities are taken into account and that the principle of sustainable development is respected, especially in island and tourist areas such as Chios?

Submitted: 29.4.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(27 June 2025)**

Although the project is still in a planning phase, it is essential to ensure that all necessary assessments and evaluations are conducted to determine its potential impacts on the environment and local communities.

According to Article 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive ⁽¹⁾, prior to granting a consent for such projects, it is up to Member States to determine whether an environmental impact assessment is necessary, based on a case-by-case analysis or by setting specific criteria (such as the location, size or type of project).

Such an assessment, if required, needs to take into account the impacts of the projects on cultural heritage and the environmental aspects as well as the opinion of the local community concerned.

In case a project impacts a Natura 2000 site, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive ⁽²⁾ applies ⁽³⁾.

Projects should be planned and implemented covering all aspects of sustainability ⁽⁴⁾, including ensuring environmental protection and the prevention and minimisation of adverse social or health effects.

Without prejudice to the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties, Member States are primarily responsible for ensuring compliance with EU law.

In line with its strategic approach on enforcement action ⁽⁵⁾, which focuses on cases of systemic non-compliance, the Commission considers that the means of redress available under national legislation would be the most appropriate mechanism to address individual cases of possible non-compliance.

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=FR2u1lipiyc>

² <https://diafaneia.eu/marinakis/> καὶ <https://diafaneia.eu/oxi-eksorykseis-antimoniou-xio/>

⁽¹⁾ Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1-21, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, OJ L 124, 25.4.2014, p. 1-18.

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

⁽³⁾ Article 6(3) requires that any plan or project likely to significantly impact the site, individually or combined with others, undergo an appropriate assessment of its implications, considering the site's conservation objectives, and can only be approved if it does not adversely affect the site's integrity. Exceptions are allowed under Article 6(4)'s conditions.

⁽⁴⁾ As highlighted in the Commission's publication 'EU principles for sustainable raw materials' <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/23e4b6a0-41da-11ec-89db-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

⁽⁵⁾ As set out in the communication of 19 January 2017 (EU law: Better results through better application — C/2016/8600, OJ C 18, 19.1.2017, p. 10-20) and in the communication of 13 October 2022 COM(2022) 518 final — Enforcing EU law for a Europe that delivers.