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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
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Under the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (EIA)¹, Member States must ensure that projects listed under its Annexes, including aquaculture projects, undergo an EIA when likely to significantly affect the environment, including the marine environment. Moreover, under the Habitats Directive², projects that may affect Natura 2000 sites require an appropriate assessment and may be authorised only if site integrity is safeguarded, with exceptions only under strict conditions³. Without prejudice to the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties, it is primarily the responsibility of the Greek authorities to ensure compliance with EU environmental law. Alleged breaches may be brought before national courts. The Commission has issued guidance on aquaculture and Natura 2000⁴.

The Commission monitors the effectiveness of Article 35 of the Waste Framework Directive⁵. In Greece, a national registry for waste collection and transport was developed by the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, and it is addressed to companies and organisations (including local authorities) that generate, collect and treat waste.

Compliance with the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) principle is required for recovery and resilience plans. The Commission has assessed Greece's plan. Greece must ensure DNSH and environmental law compliance during implementation. As regards activities supported by the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), the scope and conditions of the EMFAF Regulation ensure compliance with the DNSH. Moreover, Member States must ensure that all aquaculture activities, EU-funded or not, comply fully with EU and national environmental rules.

¹ 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 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 Commission's guidance document: Directorate-General for Environment, Managing Natura 2000 sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, Publications Office, 2019, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2779/02245>.

⁴ European Commission: Directorate-General for Environment, Guidance on aquaculture and Natura 2000 – Sustainable aquaculture activities in the context of the Natura 2000 Network, Publications Office, 2019, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2779/34131>.

⁵ Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives, OJ L 312, 22.11.2008, p. 3–30, as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May, OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 109–140.