

EN
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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.3.2026)

While information on the Florence airport masterplan is publicly available on the website of the Italian Minister for the Environment and Energy Security¹, to date the Commission has not received from the Italian authorities a notification under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive². For this reason, the Commission is not in a position to comment as to whether the conditions to obtain a derogation under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive have been met. Such a notification is required in cases where plans or projects are found to have a significant negative effect on a Natura 2000 site, where there are no alternative solutions and where they must be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

The Commission systematically examines any such notification to assess whether the requirements of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive were duly respected, including an assessment of the imperative reasons of overriding public interest that would justify the realisation of the plan or project in question. The assessment is based on the requirements set out in the Directive as well as on the Commission guidelines on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive³.

¹ <https://va.mite.gov.it/it-IT/Oggetti/Documentazione/9937/14638?RaggruppamentoID=1137>.

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.

³ Commission notice - Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, OJ C 437, 28.10.2021.