

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000519/26
to the Commission
Martin Günther (The Left)
(9 February 2026)**

Subject: Electric fencing in Romanian Natura 2000 sites and compliance with EU nature legislation

Recent developments in Romania raise concerns regarding the implementation of EU environmental law. The Romanian Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests has announced a large-scale programme to install thousands of kilometres of electric fencing to mitigate conflicts between humans and brown bears, financed through the national Environmental Fund and integrated into Romania's national action plan for brown bear conservation ⁽¹⁾.

However, reports from affected regions indicate that several large fences have been installed inside Natura 2000 sites without clear permitting, that some structures cut across key ecological corridors, and that the measures so far have not demonstrably reduced human-wildlife conflict ⁽²⁾. Instead, they risk fragmenting protected landscapes and undermining the conservation objectives of the Habitats Directive.

1. Does the Commission provide any guidance or best-practice frameworks to Member States on the use of electric fencing in Natura 2000 areas or for large carnivore conflict mitigation?
2. Are EU funds or EU-linked national programmes for such measures subject to specific requirements regarding appropriate assessment, ecological connectivity, and consistency with Natura 2000 management objectives?
3. How will the Commission ensure that Romania's fencing programme complies with the Habitats Directive and does not lead to the uncontrolled fragmentation of protected areas?

Submitted: 9.2.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(24 March 2026)**

There is no Commission guidance on the use of electric fencing in Natura 2000 sites or for mitigating conflicts with large carnivores. However, there have been several projects under the EU programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE) ⁽¹⁾ whose actions related to the use of electric fences for protecting livestock from large carnivores.

These include LIFE Lynx ⁽²⁾ aiming to rescue the Dinaric-Southeast Alpine lynx population and LIFE WILD WOLF ⁽³⁾ aiming to improve (or if favourable, maintain) the conservation status of the wolf in eight Member States.

Cohesion policy ⁽⁴⁾ financed a project for the implementation of the national action plan for the conservation of the brown bear in Romania. Its budget included EUR 3 million for mobile electric fences, among other activities to protect the bears.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive ⁽⁵⁾ requires that any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site that is likely to have a significant effect on the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, should be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

The competent authorities can only agree to such a plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned. This applies regardless whether a plan or project, such as the installation of electric fences, is funded by EU or national sources.

Romania's competent national authorities are primarily responsible for the application of EU legislation thus to ensure that the provisions of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive are correctly applied in Romania.

¹ https://www.afm.ro/garduri_electrice_ghid.php.

² <https://peisajdeschis.ro/en/2026/01/27/anuntarea-unei-dezastru-mii-de-kilometri-de-garduri-electrice-in-toata-romania/>.

⁽¹⁾ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.lifelynx.eu/about-the-project/>.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.lifewildwolf.com/new-page>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/what/investment-policy_en.

⁽⁵⁾ Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206 of 22.7.1992, p. 7.