

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001878/26
to the Commission
Maria Zacharia (NI)
(6 May 2026)**

Subject: Compatibility of a Greek draft law with EU environmental law in relation to Natura 2000 sites

The Greek Ministry of the Environment and Energy's law on the modernisation of legislation on the use and production of energy from renewable sources, which ostensibly transposes Directives (EU) 2023/2413 and (EU) 2024/1788 into national law, is not limited to the faithful transposition of those directives, but introduces provisions that go beyond their regulatory framework and distort their objective of ensuring a high level of environmental protection.

Specifically, the draft law establishes permitted uses and activities within Natura 2000 sites without making their implementation contingent upon a prior appropriate impact assessment capable of ruling out — on the basis of the best available scientific data — any reasonable doubt as to the deterioration of the protected habitats.

This approach raises questions as to the compatibility with Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2011/92/EU, as well as with the principles of Articles 11 and 191 TFEU.

Furthermore, the public consultation lasted only two weeks, one of which coincided with Holy Week and Easter, which, according to the comments received, undermines meaningful public participation.

In light of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is the above legislative approach in line with Article 6 of Directive 92/43/EEC?
2. How does it assess the above decoupling of the implementation of activities from the prior appropriate assessment?
3. Does the consultation process meet the requirements for effective public participation under EU law?

Submitted: 6.5.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(16 July 2026)**

The Commission notes that the bill in question has not yet been adopted and cannot thus comment on its content. Any measure communicated by the Member States for the transposition of the directives (EU) 2023/2413 ⁽¹⁾ and (EU) 2024/1788 ⁽²⁾ will be assessed by the Commission Services under the relevant transposition exercise.

According to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive ⁽³⁾ in case a Natura 2000 site is likely to be significantly impacted by a project, then an appropriate assessment of its impact must be carried out and the project can only be authorised if it has been ascertained that it will not significantly impact such a site. Any legislative change should not introduce provisions, that would contradict the above-mentioned provision.

Article 7 of the Aarhus Convention ⁽⁴⁾ requires each Party, 'to the extent appropriate', to 'endeavour to provide opportunities for public participation in the preparation of policies relating to the environment'.

However, the more specific public participation requirements under Articles 6 and 7 of the Aarhus Convention (including Article 6(3) requiring reasonable timeframes) apply only to projects, plans and programmes.

⁽¹⁾ Directive (EU) 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652, OJ L, 2023/2413, 31.10.2023.

⁽²⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/1788 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on common rules for the internal markets for renewable gas, natural gas and hydrogen, amending Directive (EU) 2023/1791 and repealing Directive 2009/73/EC (recast) (Text with EEA relevance), OJ L, 2024/1788, 15.7.2024.

⁽³⁾ 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.

⁽⁴⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/law-and-governance/aarhus_en.