

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001970/26  
to the Commission  
Gaetano Pedulla' (The Left)  
(12 May 2026)**

**Subject:** Impact of firework displays on the biodiversity of the Lago di Sartirana SAC (IT2030007)

Established by Regional Law 86/1983, the Lago di Sartirana regional nature reserve in Merate (Province of Lecco) was designated as a Natura 2000 Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Community Interest (SCI) by a 2016 ministerial decree. The Lago di Sartirana (IT2030007) is a site of great importance for the migration, reproduction and nesting of several species protected by the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), namely the Ferruginous Duck, Little Bittern, Kingfisher and Marsh Harrier.

Every year, a 20-minute firework display is held a mere 400 metres from the reserve's perimeter to mark the local saint's feast day in late June, a period in which many birds are in the area and nesting <sup>(1)</sup>.

A source of bright lights and loud noises, these pyrotechnic shows could be at odds with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), which states that activities disturbing local designated species should be avoided.

In the light of the above, we ask the Commission:

1. Is granting authorisation to hold firework displays in the immediate vicinity of an SAC during the nesting season compatible with the protection obligations laid down by the aforementioned Directives, especially given that no environmental implications assessments have been carried out to rule out any potential harm for local species?
2. How will the Commission go about involving Member States in efforts to ban the use of fireworks in SCIs and their immediate vicinity?

Submitted: 12.5.2026

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

The Habitats Directive <sup>(1)</sup> requires the establishment of the necessary conservation measures for Special Areas of Conservation (Article 6(1)), where the deterioration of habitats and disturbance of the species for which the site was designated must be avoided, in so far as such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of the directive <sup>(2)</sup> (Article 6(2)).

It also requires that plans or projects not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, but likely to have an impact must undergo an appropriate assessment of its implications in view of the site's conservation objectives (Article 6(3)).

Any activity likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, such as the Lago di Sartirana (IT2030007), is concerned. Under the Birds Directive <sup>(3)</sup>, Member States must also apply a general system of protection for all wild birds present on their territory, by prohibiting certain harmful activities (Article 5).

Italy has transposed these provisions in its legislation. It has also adopted national guidelines <sup>(4)</sup> to improve the application of Article 6(3) across its regions, and Lombardy has also transposed them into its regional legal order <sup>(5)</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> <https://leconotizie.com/societa/merate-si-chiude-la-festa-di-sartirana-con-lo-spettacolo-dei-fuochi-dartificio/>.

<sup>(1)</sup> 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, pp. 7-50.

<sup>(2)</sup> Section 3.5.2 of 'Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC', according to which disturbance of a species occurs on a site from events, activities or processes contributing, within the site, to a long-term decline in the population of the species, to a reduction or risk of reduction in its range, and to a reduction in its available habitat. This assessment is done according to the site's conservation objectives and its contribution to the coherence of the network.

<sup>(3)</sup> Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds, OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7-25.

<sup>(4)</sup> <https://www.mase.gov.it/pagina/linee-guida-nazionali-la-valutazione-di-incidenza-vinca-direttiva-92-43-cee-habitat-articolo>.

<sup>(5)</sup> Deliberazione della Giunta regionale (Regione Lombardia) 16-11-2021, n. 11/5523 — Aggiornamento delle disposizioni di cui alla d.g.r. 29 marzo 2021 — n. XI/4488 'Armonizzazione e semplificazione dei procedimenti relativi all'applicazione della valutazione di incidenza per il recepimento delle linee guida nazionali oggetto dell'intesa sancita il 28 novembre 2019 tra il Governo, le Regioni e le Province autonome di Trento e di Bolzano'.

It is for the Italian competent authorities and, where necessary, national courts to apply the above rules and procedures and to ensure that, if damage to a protected site has occurred, it is adequately restored. In its role as guardian of the Treaties, the Commission may decide to take appropriate action if systemic issues concerning the application of these provisions of EU law arise <sup>(6)</sup>.

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<sup>(6)</sup> Communication from the Commission — EU law: Better results through better application, OJ C 18, 19.1.2017, p. 10-20, and Communication from the Commission — Enforcing EU law for a Europe that delivers, 13.10.2022, COM(2022) 518 final.