

**Question for written answer E-008996/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Salvatore Cicu (PPE)**

Subject: Worsening of habitat status in Italy and Europe

The recent 'State of nature in the EU' report, prepared by the Commission with a view to revising the Habitats and Birds Directives, notes a worsening of habitat status in both Italy and the other 28 Member States. Italy is one of the countries with the largest numbers of Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) and Special Protection Zones (SPZs), with around 2 600 habitats protected under the directive. According to the Commission report, the vast majority of habitats have unfavourable conservation status: 47 % of assessments were 'unfavourable-inadequate' and 30 % were 'unfavourable-declining'. As regards Italy, the condition of more than 60 % of Italian sites is worse than in 2007.

1. In the light of the above, what steps is the Commission intending to take, including with a view to revising the Habitats and Birds Directives, to protect biodiversity?
2. Does the Commission intend to approve new forms of funding and support for the Member States?