

**Question for written answer E-011754/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Rosa D'Amato (EFDD), Eleonora Evi (EFDD) and Piernicola Pedicini (EFDD)

Subject: Lake Varano and non-compliance with a European directive

Lake Varano in Apulia has a priority environment under the Habitats Directive. It has been classified as a Site of Community Interest and has formed part of Gargano National Park since 1995: in addition, the lake is one of the principal economic resources for the population living around it, thanks to the presence of various species of fish, mussel farming and clam harvesting.

However, Lake Varano is currently in a serious condition because of inadequate oxygenation due to silting-up and obstruction of its supply channels and due to the flood in 2014, which dumped all manner of rubbish into its waters.

The Region of Apulia and the Italian State have not yet taken any action to prevent this deterioration and to set in motion urgent clean-up measures which are needed to restore the natural conditions provided for by Directive 2000/60/EC.

Can the Commission verify the non-compliance with the above directive, and identify the responsibilities of Italy and of the Region of Apulia, in order to induce them to take the measures necessary to safeguard the natural heritage of Lake Varano before it is too late?