

**Question for written answer E-008971/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Hannu Takkula (ALDE)**

Subject: Natura 2000 and the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives

Natura 2000 is a project launched by the EU in 1992 to support European nature reserves. The project protects the species and habitats listed in the EU wildlife directives, and covers nearly a fifth of the EU's territory. According to evaluation studies, the directives serve their purpose, namely to protect biodiversity and serve the economy and society. However, the Commission has not yet published fitness checks on the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives, even though publication should have taken place in July. This considerably slows the launch of activities to protect nature and implement the EU's objectives.

When will the Commission publish fitness checks on the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives?