

**Question for written answer E-009124/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Svetoslav Hristov Malinov (PPE)

Subject: Delay in the official publication of the results of the 'fitness check' on the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)

As part of the Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT), since 2014 the Commission has been carrying out a 'fitness check' on the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) in order to check whether they were 'fit for purpose'. According to the Commission, the assessment would be evidence based and could lead to changes being made to the legislation. These two directives underpin the Natura 2000 European network for habitat and species protection.

The assessment of the effectiveness of the Natura 2000 directives was based on evidence gathering from the 28 Member States and a public consultation in which 520 000 people in total took part.

The Commission declared in the road map for the 'fitness check' that it would publish the results together with a staff working document on the future of the directives by December 2015. However, neither the results nor the staff working document have been published to date.

In the meantime, copies of the produced documents were published in the European media in the beginning of 2016.

When is the actual deadline for the official publication? If the documents are already completed, why is the Commission delaying the official publication of the results of the 'fitness check'?