

**Question for written answer E-001444/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Svetoslav Hristov Malinov (PPE)

Subject: Designation of Special Areas of Conservation in Bulgaria

Under the Habitats Directive, Member States must designate Sites of Community Importance (SCI) as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and apply the necessary conservation measures within six years of their approval as an SCI by the Commission. In Bulgaria, however, SCI Pirin (BG0000209) and 223 other SCIs are still awaiting SAC designation, even though the six-year deadline expired on 13 February 2015.

In this context:

1. What action will the Commission take to ensure compliance with EU legislation with regard to the designation of Pirin BG0000209 and the 223 other SCIs as SACs, and to the adequate conservation objectives and measures that this entails?
2. Can the Commission provide a schedule outlining exactly when SAC designations in Bulgaria will be finalised?