

EN  
E-002140/2018  
Answer given by Mr Vella  
on behalf of the Commission  
(13.6.2018)

The Commission has adopted an Action Plan for nature, people and the economy<sup>1</sup> to follow up the Nature Directives<sup>2</sup> Fitness Check<sup>3</sup>. The aim of the Action Plan is to rapidly improve practical implementation of the Nature Directives, to accelerate progress towards the EU 2020 goal of halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services and to improve the Directives' coherence with broader socio-economic objectives. The Commission has addressed the European Court of Auditors recommendations to it through the Action Plan.

Actions 1, 2, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 of the Action Plan are relevant to recommendation 1 c) to increase efforts to promote the dissemination and application of guidance documents and the results of the biogeographical seminars, and promote the exchange of best practices on cross-border cooperation.

As concerns recommendation 2 d), under Action 8 a), the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) template has been updated and agreed with Member States, following several rounds of consultations. Action 8 of the Action Plan also envisages supporting Member States in their update of the PAF during the course of 2018 through dedicated seminars, starting as of September 2018.

As regards recommendation 3 b), in the context of Actions 9, 10 and 11, related respectively to the Common Agricultural Policy, the Cohesion Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy, the Commission is currently considering the establishment of cross-cutting Natura 2000 indicators in the context of the new multi-annual financial framework.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2017) 198 final,  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness\\_check/action\\_plan/communication\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness_check/action_plan/communication_en.pdf) and  
SWD(2017) 139 final,  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness\\_check/action\\_plan/factsheets\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness_check/action_plan/factsheets_en.pdf) .

<sup>2</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive), OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7–50 and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive), OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7–25.

<sup>3</sup> The Commission findings of the Fitness Check are presented in the Staff Working Document published on 16 December 2016 - SWD(2016) 472 final -  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness\\_check/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness_check/index_en.htm).