

**Question for written answer E-004839/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Dario Tamburrano (EFDD)

Subject: Geothermal energy and Natura 2000 sites at Lake Bolsena

In the coming weeks the Italian Government will decide whether or not to authorise the pilot geothermal power plant 'Castel Giorgio' near the Natura 2000 sites IT6010007 and IT6010055 (Lake Bolsena; Lake Bolsena and Bisentina and Martana islands).

The environmental impact assessment, which resulted in a positive opinion, did not take into consideration – even in the wake of citizens' observations – a scientific publication¹ that stated that the reservoir from which the plant would extract geothermal fluids is compartmentalised. As a result, the point at which the fluids are extracted and the point of re-injection, being miles away from each other, might not be intercommunicating. In that case, at the first point a huge depression would form while the second would be subject to huge pressure, which would have an impact on the groundwater which feeds the lake; the lake itself would also be polluted by the geothermal fluids.

No assessment of implications was carried out, but merely a screening assessment which, once again, failed to consider the possible compartmentalisation of the geothermal reservoir. There is therefore no certainty that the construction of the geothermal plant would not damage the integrity of the IT6010007 and IT6010055 sites.

Can the Commission therefore say:

- 1) whether the possible authorisation of the plant would be in breach of the Habitats Directive;
- 2) whether it will raise the issue with Italy?

¹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0040195113005404>