

**Question for written answer P-000055/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Svetoslav Hristov Malinov (PPE)

Subject: Potential infringement of EU law in connection with the management plan of Pirin National Park

My attention has been drawn by citizens' organisations in Bulgaria to a specific case which gives good grounds to suspect violations of EU law. On 28 December 2017, the Bulgarian Council of Ministers adopted amendments to the management plan of Pirin National Park. The park overlaps with the Pirin BG0000209 Site of Community Importance (SCI) and Special Protection Area (SPA) Natura 2000 site. The adopted amendments lift the previous ban on building activities in the park's tourist and forest zone.

As a result, for many habitats protected under the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), there could be adverse effects from future tourist development and the cutting of old-growth forests. According to the Bulgarian Administrative Procedure Code, the decision shall enter into force irrespective of court appeals, which could result in damage to the Natura 2000 area.

The amendment to the management plan was carried out with no prior assessments – environmental or otherwise. Thus, the Council of Ministers has violated Articles 2 and 3 of Directive 2001/42/EC and Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43/EEC.

1. How will the Commission ensure the fulfilment of Bulgaria's obligations under both directives?
2. In the light of the above, will the Commission launch infringement proceedings?