

European Parliament

2019-2024



*Committee on Petitions
in association with the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety*

PROGRAMME

Public Hearing

“The state of implementation of the Habitats Directive”

Wednesday 24 May 2023

from 11.00 to 12.30

European Parliament, Brussels

Room SPINELLI 3G2

Opening remarks

11.00-11.05 **Dolors MONTERRAT**, Chair of the Committee on Petitions

Session 1

Shortcomings and challenges of the enforcement of the Habitats Directive on the basis of petitions received

11.05 – 11.15 **Implementation and infringement overview**

Mr Paul SPEIGHT, Acting Director, DG ENV.E. implementation and relations with Member States, European Commission

The Commission will present the state of play of the implementation of the HD, giving an overview of the implementation and of the infringement actions brought by the Commission, using the petitions received for illustrative purposes.

11.15 – 11.25 **Enforcement and implementation challenges**

Ms Laura HILDT, Strategic Litigation Officer at the European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

The expert will point out the shortcomings and challenges in the enforcement of the HD, on the basis of infringement cases and including concrete examples based on the petitions received.

11.25 – 11.35 **The infringement procedure as an efficient tool for the enforcement of the Habitats Directive?**

Ms Floor FLEURKE, Associate Professor of European Environmental Law at Tilburg University

Based on concrete examples from petitions received and on the results of infringement cases, the expert will look into the efficiency of the infringement procedure as a tool for fostering compliance with the HD, including a comparison with the role to play by national judge to ensure compliance with the HD at national level, in particular in the event of bad application. Identify any possible room for improvement.

11.35 – 11.55 **Q&A session**

Session 2

How to promote full compliance by Member States of the Habitats Directive?

11.55 – 12.05 **Mr Carlos ROMÃO**, nature and biodiversity expert at the European Environment Agency (EEA)

On the basis of the shortcomings identified in section 1, the expert will identify possible solutions and any best practices to promote full compliance of the HD.

12.05 – 12.25 **Q&A session**

Concluding remarks

12.25 – 12.30 **Dolors MONTSERRAT**, Chair of the Committee on Petitions