

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1289/09  
by Carlo Fatuzzo (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Compensation for farmers for the 'Natura 2000' Community programmes

Paragraph D of European Parliament Resolution P6\_TA(2005)0078 of 10 March 2005 on 'Financing Natura 2000' (2004/2164(INI)) recognises the strategic importance of the Natura 2000 network, which is '*made up of sites designated under the Birds Directive and Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the 'Habitats Directive')*'.

Paragraph F of the same resolution looks at the social importance of the activities carried out by farmers and forest owners.

Paragraph N points out that the Commission and the Council, in adopting the Habitats Directive in 1992, '*made a clear commitment to ensure that landowners and landusers would not bear the financial burden of the measures in the directive, strongly urging that this promise be kept.*'

Several farmers' associations in Italy are complaining about the lack of any financial support from the state and from the European Union and report a sharp increase in expenditure for managing their land, in particular with regard to the drawing up of studies and environmental impact assessments.

Can the Commission say whether the funds available under the Natura 2000 network are of a compensatory nature for the restrictions placed on landowners regarding the use of their land in the above-mentioned protected areas? Should this not be the case, how can those funds be legally defined and can they be combined with CAP incentives?

Can the Commission say how much funding has been allocated to each individual Member State under the Natura 2000 network programme and whether that funding has already been received by landowners and landusers and by those who actually have to bear the costs deriving from the implementation of the above-mentioned Community legislation?