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Answer given by Mr Potočnik
on behalf of the Commission
(15.6.2012)

The Commission believes that pursuant to the principle of sincere co-operation set out in Article 4(3) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) a Member State designating a site in an area concerned by a territorial dispute should notify the other concerned Member State before submitting this proposal to the Commission. Whilst it would appear that neither Spain nor the United Kingdom formally undertook this step for the sites they proposed in the disputed territory, the emphasis now must be on the two Member States to co-operate in finding a practical way forward in managing the sites in order to deliver the requirements of Directive 92/43/EEC¹ on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, as such designation implies.

¹ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992