

**Question for written answer E-009556/2012  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Rebecca Taylor (ALDE)**

Subject: Implementation of the Habitats Directive in the United Kingdom

Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive requires the Member States to take appropriate steps to avoid the deterioration of natural habitats and habitats of species in Natura 2000 sites. In my own constituency of Yorkshire and the Humber Region in the UK, blanket bog habitats on Walshaw Moor in the South Pennines that are protected under the Habitats and Birds Directives have been severely degraded as a result of inappropriate management measures. These measures include repeated burning of areas of blanket bog in order to provide habitat for red grouse, and the construction of tracks to enable access for commercial grouse-shooting. The relevant competent authority, Natural England, has failed to take the steps needed to avoid ongoing damage and to restore the degraded areas of blanket bog on Walshaw Moor.

Can the Commission confirm whether or not the competent authorities in the UK are fulfilling their obligations to avoid the deterioration of natural habitats and habitats of species under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive?

If these obligations are not met, can the Commission give an indication of the action it intends to take?