

**Question for written answer E-008463/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Sandrine Bélier (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Romanian Natura 2000 sites and the cultivation of GMOs

In late June 2013, the Romanian Parliament adopted a bill authorising the cultivation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in protected areas, including sites in the European Natura 2000 network. Almost 23 % of Romania's total land area is protected by this network, which, in the Commission's own words, gives a clear indication of the value that Europeans place on biodiversity.

In December 2008, the EU Environment Council expressed its views on protecting sensitive and/or protected areas from GMO cultivation. The Environment Ministers underlined the need to take full account of the ecosystems and specific geographical areas 'of particular value in terms of biodiversity and particular agricultural practices' and agreed on allowing restrictions or conditions on GMO cultivation in Natura 2000 areas.

1. Is the Commission aware of this bill adopted by the Romanian Parliament?
2. Given the importance of the Natura 2000 network, does it not believe it essential to protect these areas against possible contamination by GMO cultivation?
3. Does it intend to protect these sites by proposing new measures aimed at preventing GMO cultivation in Natura 2000 areas?