

**Question for written answer E-010573/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Giommara Uggias (ALDE) and Gianni Vattimo (ALDE)**

Subject: MUOS station in Niscemi

The Mobile User Objective System (MUOS) is a very high frequency, narrowband satellite communications system composed of four satellites and four ground stations, one of which is under construction in Sicily near the municipality of Niscemi (28 000 inhabitants) in the 'Sughereta di Niscemi' nature reserve, which is included in the Natura 2000 network as a site of Community interest (SCI) pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC (the 'Habitat Directive').

The MUOS system, managed directly by the US Navy, will integrate naval, air and ground forces on the move anywhere in the world.

The Niscemi station consists of three very high frequency tilting satellite dishes and two ultra high frequency helical antennas. The tilting parabolic antennas are approximately 18 metres in diameter.

Construction of the MUOS station in Niscemi, which, moreover, falls within an area with a total ban on building in accordance with environmental and town-planning legislation, has led to great concern and protests among the local population owing to the risks to human health and to the integrity of the natural heritage of the area thought to be caused by the magnetic field generated once the installation is put into operation. Work on construction of the MUOS station has therefore been halted several times by dispositions issued by the legal authority and by the local authorities. Nevertheless, work always resumed with no light actually being shed on the risks which the population fear.

In view of the above, can the Commission state, after obtaining information from the Italian authorities, whether the construction of the MUOS station in Niscemi:

1. complies with the requirements of EU environmental legislation and in particular Directive 92/43/EEC;
2. complies with the requirements of EU legislation on health and in particular the dangers from exposure to electromagnetic fields and waves?