

**Question for written answer E-004896/2014
to the Commission
Rule 117
Andrea Zanoni (S&D)**

Subject: Sport fishing and storage of fish stock in the Bosco di Dueville (Vicenza) special protection area

A project to regenerate a natural habitat of Community interest in the Bosco di Dueville special protection area (SPA IT 3220013) in the Province of Vicenza ended on 31 December 2013. It was financed by the EU through a grant agreement (allocation of LIFE + Nature and Biodiversity funding – No 09NAT/IT/00213) and aimed to restore an area fed by springs and formerly used for fish farming.

By way of decision of the Special Commissioner No 67 of 25.03.2014, Vicenza Provincial Council approved the after-LIFE plan for the long-term conservation of the regeneration area. The document lists fishing as a management tool for the area, but without any assessment of the adverse effect this will have on the site since, given the geomorphologic characteristics and type of habitats and species of Community interest there, it is clear that sport fishing, as outlined in the after-LIFE document, could trigger a sharp decline in biodiversity (primarily by preventing stop-overs and nesting by numerous species of aquatic birds that would reproduce and/or spend winters there, but also by causing direct disruption to native fish species).

Furthermore, the same document provides for regular storage within the area of fish stock from rivers outside the special protection area, which poses enormous risks to the area's eco-balance arising from the accidental (and highly probable) introduction of invasive alien species.

Considering the ecological fragility of the environment in the Bosco di Dueville SPA, activities such as sport fishing and the storage of fish stock are out of keeping and incompatible with the long-term conservation of the wild species and habitat types that is the aim of the SOR.BA Project.

1. Is the Commission aware of the situation described above, and what is its view on this?
2. What steps will it take to address cases where areas regenerated using Community funds, for the priority aims of conservation and environmental education, are used for sport fishing and the storage of fish stocks? How does it plan to avert the threats to habitats and species of Community interest that such activities inevitably entail?