

**Question for written answer E-002476/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Igor Šoltes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Implementation of ECA recommendation for full implementation of Directive - Natura 2000

Biodiversity loss is one of the major environmental changes that the EU is facing. The Natura 2000 network was set up under the Birds and Habitats Directive as a key issue of the EU strategy, up to 2020, to halt biodiversity loss. Natura 2000 includes over 27 000 sites all over Europe, covering more than 18% of the EU's landmass and approximately 6% of its seas. Member States should ensure that the state of the areas is not deteriorating and adopt conservation measures. A new report by the auditors from the Court of Auditors has revealed weaknesses in management and a lack of reliable information on costs and financing of Natura 2000. Namely, the funding was not sufficiently tailored to the needs of environmental areas. Information provided by Member States was too often incomplete and their comparability was problematic. Auditors also report the need to improve management, financing and monitoring of the programme. Monitoring and reporting systems have not been adequate, as no special performance indicators system exists for how the EU funds are used.

How does the Commission intend to implement the recommendations of the European Court of Auditors to ensure full implementation of the Nature directives, and to clarify the financing and accounting for Natura 2000?

Will appropriate indicators be developed to enable the results achieved by the programme to be measured?