

**Question for written answer E-001713/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Stefano Maullu (PPE)

Subject: Flexibility principle

On 15 November 2017, the Action Plan for nature, people and the economy was adopted. Paragraph 17 of Parliament's resolution on that Action Plan states the following: 'welcomes the fact that, without jeopardising the conservation objectives and requirements laid down in the Nature Directives, flexible approaches to implementation that take into account specific national circumstances help reduce and progressively eliminate unnecessary conflicts and problems which have arisen between nature protection and socioeconomic activities, and also address the practical challenges resulting from the application of the annexes to the directives'.

Does the Commission agree that it must apply paragraph 17, not least when implementing the 'Habitat' and 'Birds' directives, whenever due account must be taken of specific national circumstances in the area of nature protection, and that it must take suitably flexible approaches when implementing the annexes to the directives as well, in keeping with conservation objectives and the requirements laid down by the directives themselves?