

**Question for written answer E-003293/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Margrete Auken (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Natura 2000

In its planned adjustment to Natura 2000 areas¹, the Danish government has, for political reasons, refused to designate new conservation areas (areas not adjacent to previously designated conservation areas). However, according to reports prepared by Aarhus University for the Ministry of the Environment and Food, which are available on the Ministry's website², a number of natural habitats have low representation within existing conservation areas, as only a small percentage occur as part of Natura 2000 areas.

'Beech on topsoil' (12%)

'Mixed oak woodland' (15%)

'Acid open grazing land' (32% of the known occurrences in the Continental region)

'Broken-down moorland' (17% of the known occurrences in the Atlantic region, and 35% in the Continental region)

'Saw grass moor' (28% of the known occurrences in the Continental region)

'Springs' (36% of the known occurrences in the Atlantic region, and 32% in the Continental region)

'Alder and ask wood' (29%)

Can a Member State take out 28 000 hectares of existing conservation areas, and designate 5 000 hectares as compensation, provided that these areas are linked to existing conservation areas and provided that the designation will not limit agricultural interests, while also refusing to designate new areas for those natural habitats where, today, only a modest share is part of special conservation areas?

¹ http://mfvm.dk/fileadmin/user_upload/Naturpakke-2016.pdf

² <http://mst.dk/media/114337/arealberegninger-af-terrestriske-habitattyper.pdf>