

**Question for written answer E-006122/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Karin Kadenbach (S&D)

Subject: Implementation of Natura 2000

On 30 May 2013, the Commission launched infringement proceedings against Austria for failing to propose a full list of Sites of Community Importance (SCI), as stipulated under Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive).

It was subsequently agreed that the outstanding site proposals would be made by the end of 2015. At the bilateral seminar in March 2015, it was revealed that many of the requirements to propose sites and designate protected species had not been met.

The Commission cancelled the second monitoring seminar (due to take place in early 2016) because of a lack of a significant number of site proposals and objective data¹.

In 2017, the Austrian press reported that state politicians were pushing for the proceedings to be halted. For example, on 28 March 2017 the *Tiroler Tageszeitung* reported that Mr Platter, Governor of Tirol, had exchanged letters with Mr Juncker, President of the Commission².

The Governor also referred to the talks he had held with Juncker in Brussels the previous Monday, during which Juncker had promised to look into the matter personally.

The President of the Commission had also agreed that the states would not be required to propose additional sites.

In June 2018, talks were held between the Commission and representatives from the states.

How does the Commission intend to ensure that the assessment of the Austrian network of protected sites with a view to halting the infringement proceedings is carried out objectively and is not influenced by political intervention?

¹ <http://www.tt.com/politik/landespolitik/11265451-91/natura-2000-geplatzt-eu-droht-klage-an.cspv>

² <http://www.tt.com/politik/landespolitik/12797616-91/natura-2000-platter-schloss-nachnominierung-dezidiert-aus.csp>