

**Question for written answer E-000285/2019
to the Commission
Rule 130
Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Strategic studies necessary for the updating of regional planning frameworks

The Greek Government is encouraging the adoption of a regional planning framework classifying most of Fokida, where Delphi (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) is located, as an exclusively mining area, with the installation of wind farms being authorised in the remaining sector. The purpose of this is to exclude any competing activities in what are designated as exclusively mining areas (45% of the prefecture of Fokida).

Given that:

- the Commission requires strategic environmental impact assessments to be carried out prior to approval of updated regional planning and sustainable development frameworks 'to the extent that Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment applies'¹;
- much of the area contains NATURA 2000 protected habitats;

and in view of the provisions of the European Landscape Convention and the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2014/52/EU:

1. Can the Commission say whether a strategic environmental impact assessment has been carried out prior to the designation of the area concerned as exclusively reserved for mining activity?
2. Is 'exclusive mining activity' in any way compatible with the conservation and sustainability of NATURA 2000 habitats? Is it admissible to exclude activities compatible with NATURA 2000?
3. Should the installation of wind turbines not also be subject to strategic environmental assessment findings?

¹ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-8-2018-004170-ASW_EL.html