

Question for written answer E-002265/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Laura Ferrara (NI)

Subject: Failure to carry out an assessment of the implications of a plan to build small hydro power plants along the River Abatemarco in the municipality of Verbicaro

The River Abatemarco is approximately 20 km long; it has its source in the mountains near Verbicaro, in the province of Cosenza, and flows into the Tyrrhenian (Mediterranean) Sea.

The River Abatemarco valley is a green oasis abundant in biodiversity, which should be more protected, safeguarded and enhanced.

This river landscape could shortly be disfigured because of the construction of several small hydro power plants along its banks, which would have a negative impact on the surrounding ecosystem.

Indeed, just a few hundred metres away from the sites affected by the above-mentioned plan is the 'River Abatemarco Valley' SCI/SAC No IT9310028, where there are some particularly important habitats and species.

That said, given that the plans to build these small hydro power plants did not undergo any assessment of their implications, even though they could have a significant impact, both directly and indirectly, on the conservation of the habitats and species in the SCI/SAC in question, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Will it check why the above-mentioned plans have not yet been subjected to an assessment of implications pursuant to Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43/EEC?
2. Will it call on the Calabria Region to promptly prepare this assessment of implications in the case at issue?
3. In its view, has the 'precautionary principle' under Article 191 TFEU been complied with in this case?