

**Question for written answer E-003426/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Designation of 30% of EU territory as protected and review of Natura 2000

In the biodiversity strategy published on 20 May, the Commission laid down over-ambitious objectives for Natura 2000, including the designation of 30% of EU territory as being protected and 10% as closely protected. The Commission has accepted responsibility for working out the criteria and definitions for what territory should be included in those categories.

Fortunately, under the strategy, Member States also have the right to decide what territory should be designated protected based on local biological and geographical characteristics.

Bearing in mind that over 34% of Bulgarian territory forms part of the Natura 2000 system, which is over twice the EU average, and that this includes such ridiculous places as tailings ponds, graveyards, part of Belene atomic power station and entire urban districts:

1. How does the Commission plan to achieve the joint EU target of 30% protected areas and 10% closely protected areas without interfering in the affairs of Member States that do not have that percentage of natural areas on their territory?
2. Does the Commission intend to conduct a review of those territories currently forming part of the Natura 2000 system, and more specifically to assess them using the criteria it plans to work out by the end of 2020?