

Question for written answer E-004656/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Radan Kanev (PPE)

Subject: Implementation of Article 6(2) and Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43/EEC

With reference to the ongoing infringement proceedings against Bulgaria in connection with the Natura 2000 Network, the Bulgarian Government has introduced an amendment to the current Biodiversity Act, which it submitted to the National Assembly on 5 March 2020 ¹.

Under the proposed amendment:

the objectives of the Natura 2000 network at a bio-geographical level, at network and at site level will be defined in a non-legally-binding text by the Minister of the Environment and Water (paragraph 17), which will be enacted in law at site level by means of mandatory management plans (paragraph 3) to be drawn up within 4 years – i.e. after 2024 (paragraph 29).

The preventive measures under Article 6(2) of Directive 92/43/EEC will basically be implemented through these management plans – i.e. after 2024.

Owing to the non-compulsory nature of the ‘Objectives Document’ provided for in the Act and the fact it will be implemented via the mandatory management plans after 2024, the implementation of Article 6(3) of the Directive will effectively also be postponed to after 2024.

In a letter of 27 May 2020, the Minister of the Environment and Water stressed that the Commission fully agreed with this draft act ².

Did the Commission support the Bulgarian Government’s postponement of the effective implementation of Article 6(2) and Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43/EEC to after 2024? If so, on what grounds did it base that support?

¹ <https://www.parliament.bg/bg/bills/ID/157366>

² <https://www.parliament.bg/bg/parliamentarycommittees/members/2589/standpoint/ID/11363>