

**Question for written answer E-000876/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Krzysztof Jurgiel (ECR)**

Subject: Protection of land and sea areas in the EU under the biodiversity strategy for 2030

With regard to the network of protected areas, it is suggested in the strategy proposed by the Commission that at least 30% of land areas and 30% of sea areas in the EU should be protected.

I would point out that there is a need to clarify and specify what criteria will be used to achieve that objective and which areas within national systems are to be taken into account. There is also a need to clarify the situation as regards countries that go beyond the percentage target set. For example, setting a target for 30% of areas to be classed as protected – if that level were applied separately to each sea in Europe – would be difficult to achieve with regard to the Baltic Sea as a whole. At the moment, less than 15% of its surface area is covered by one form of protection or another. Natural resources are limited in the Baltic, and its biodiversity is moderate in comparison with other European seas.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. When can we expect to receive precise criteria with regard to the achievement of the objective that 30% of land and sea areas in the EU should be protected?
2. In what way are the relevant Member State authorities involved in the process of establishing criteria and guidelines for the identification and designation of additional protected areas and ecological corridors?