

**Question for written answer E-003032/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Mario Furore (NI)

Subject: Lago Salso Oasis – respect for the criteria required by the Commission

The ‘Valloni e Steppe Pedegarganiche’ SPA/pSCI has been degraded, resulting in 2004 in the launch of infringement proceedings against the Italian State for breach of the relevant Directive (complaint 2001/4156). Following the implementation of remedial measures and a new management plan, the Commission closed the infringement proceedings on 25 June 2012.

However, closure of the infringement proceedings was pegged to a number of specific actions, including the conversion of arable land into habitats of priority Community interest, ‘Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the Thero-Brachypodietea’ , the set-aside of arable land and its management for strictly environmental purposes.

Starting from 2013, only 35 hectares of the site were classified as arable land. However, a change in crops has now been effected, pursuant to Legislative Decree No 3.10.2006 of 262, as amended by Law No 24.11.2006 of 286 and subsequent amendments (2020), under which the entire area has been converted into arable land. The area is currently an SAC as well as an IBA and has one of the highest levels of biodiversity in southern Italy.

In the light of the above, will the Commission launch an enquiry to check that these new circumstances do not contravene the measures it was agreed should be implemented to close the infringement proceedings?