

**Question for written answer E-000697/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Ignazio Corrao (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Punta Bianca ad Agrigento nature reserve and the military shooting range

On 5 November 2021, it was decided that Punta Bianca would be made a nature reserve and added to Sicily's plan for parks and reserves.

The site is directly adjacent to the 'Drasy' military shooting range, where the Italian army and US marines from the Sigonella base train for eight months of the year.

As things stand, the planned boundaries for the protected area do not encompass the natural and landscape heritage inside the shooting range. On the contrary, the shooting range encroaches on some of Zone A, permitting the military to shoot in the reserve.

The area boasts several habitats and plants of community interest¹, wetlands, and bird migration and nesting areas.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission take the view that the establishment of a nature reserve cannot be reconciled with the presence of a military shooting range?
2. Does it consider the EU directives to have been violated and, if so, what will it do to protect the reserve?

Supporter²

¹ Priority habitat 6220 Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the Thero-Brachypodietea, 1430 Halonitrophilous scrubs (Pegano-Salsolietea), 1240 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Mediterranean coasts with endemic *Limonium* spp., 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes'), 5330 Thermo-Mediterranean and pre-desert scrub, and habitat 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation.

² This question is supported by a Member other than the author: Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE)