

Question for written answer E-002310/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Marc Tarabella (S&D)

Subject: The Europarc Federation and the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism

The Europarc Federation is Europe's natural and cultural heritage network. It focuses on practical nature conservation activities and the sustainable development of European biodiversity, and participates in EU-funded programmes such as Life and Horizon.

The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Spaces, spearheaded by the Europarc Federation, is a practical management tool designed to ensure that tourism contributes to the balanced economic, social and environmental development of protected areas in Europe.

It appears that some members of the Europarc Federation's governing bodies may be, or may have been, professional consultants for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism at the same time as they were serving as elected representatives on (or were standing as candidates for election to) Europarc's board of directors, which certifies compliance with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism.

1. Does the Commission officially recognise the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, on the basis of which the Europarc Federation issues certificates to nature parks?
2. Is the Commission intending to ensure sufficient compliance with clear rules that prevent any conflict of interest for people who are both professional consultants and members of bodies, in particular when it comes to EU-funded projects?