

**Question for written answer E-002375/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Cable way project in Trieste

There are plans to build a 4.2-kilometre-long cable car way in Trieste connecting the Porto Vecchio to the Karst plateau. In order to build the line, over 200 hectares of forest would be cleared in a Natura 2000 site of high biodiversity that is home to endangered species of animals. The area is at hydro-geological risk, and the felling of the 1100 trees there would render the land even more unstable. The project would draw on resources from the national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP), which prohibits the construction of cable ways in protected areas. While the national call for tenders was won by a mass mobility project, the project is now being aimed at tourists, despite using NRRP funding.

The cable way will have major impact on the landscape, with cables and poles and a cabin passing every 20-30 seconds. The economic viability of the project is also debatable.

An alternative to the cable way already exists. The route that the cabins would take around 15 minutes to cover is already covered in 30 minutes by a traditional rack-and-pinion tram on the Opicina tramway.

In light of this:

1. Is the wholesale deforestation of a Natura 2000 area at hydro-geological risk in line with European rules?
2. Can NRRP funds legitimately be used for a project of this nature?