

**Question for written answer E-000301/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Viola von Cramon-Taubadel** (Verts/ALE)

Subject:     Infringement case INFR(2020)2033 on logging operations in Romania

As far back as 2 July 2020, the Commission published a reasoned opinion stating clearly that ‘if Romania does not act within one month, the Commission may refer the case to the Court of Justice of the European Union’. No visible or measurable progress has been made to date. On the contrary, the continued large-scale destruction of Natura 2000 sites, documented by extensive evidence, shows that the problems on the ground have still not been addressed. The Birds Directive and Habitats Directives (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) have also been breached, and the EU Timber Regulation (Regulation (EU) 995/2010) has not been correctly applied.

Furthermore, the efforts made by the Romanian authorities have proven to be insufficient with respect to conservation objectives and measures to preserve or restore protected species and habitats.

Environmental crime, and illegal timber trade in particular, is an extremely profitable business, with an annual turnover of around USD 110 to 281 billion.

1. Why did the Commission not, as it said it would, refer the case to the Court of Justice of the European Union?
2. How does it ensure that the aforementioned conservation objectives and measures are implemented in the areas concerned, in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030?
3. What action will it take to trace and confiscate the proceeds of environmental crime?

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