

**Question for written answer E-001968/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Brando Benifei (S&D)**

Subject: Infringements of EU law in connection with the redevelopment of Isola Palmaria (Portovenere – Liguria, Italy)

Infringement procedure INFR(2015)2163 was opened against Italy for its systemic failure to comply with the Habitats Directive and the structural inadequacy of the environmental conservation measures it had taken to protect special areas of conservation (SACs). The procedure is proof that scant attention has been paid to the issue of protecting plant and animal life, thus harming the country's landscapes, nature and environment.

One example of this state of affairs is what is happening on the islands of Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto in the Gulf of Spezia, sites which are part of the Natura 2000 network and are now largely given over to nature. Under the regional and local authority's current masterplan, those islands are to be intensively exploited for tourism purposes through a number of measures, from the construction of swimming pools, restaurants and fitness areas (on which work has already started) to further privatisation with a view to investment in real estate. The Palmaria–APS Association (a citizens' association) has already submitted petition No 1346/2019 – which is still open – to Parliament on this subject.

In the light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of these situations, which, if not a breach of EU law, at least run counter to the reasons for protecting biodiversity?
2. Does it have the soft-power tools to push for the cultural change needed if, in line with EU goals and laws, we are to truly value environmental assets and bring about economic and regional growth that preserves those assets?

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