

**Question for written answer E-002361/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Massimo Casanova (ID)**

Subject: Environmental plight of Lake Lesina in Foggia Province

In October 2022, oxygen depletion caused mass fish die-offs in Lake Lesina, where readings showed that oxygen concentrations had fallen to low levels (hypoxia) or to zero (anoxia) across most of the surface.

Lake Lesina and the nearby Adriatic Sea were once connected by four canals, but two of them have since silted up naturally, halving the flow of water to and from the lake.

Yet, between 2000 and 2002, a number of floating dams were built on one of the remaining waterways, the Schiapparo Canal. Far from achieving their intended purpose, they became increasingly clogged with sediment, driving Lake Lesina's depth down to only a handful of centimetres.

Having regard to Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, as well as to the Bioitaly project – which applies the directive by identifying sites in Gargano National Park – has the Puglia Region informed the Commission of the area's deteriorating condition and if not, will the Commission urge Puglia's authorities to take all the emergency operational measures at their disposal to safeguard the area's habitats and all activities connected to it?

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