

**Question for written answer E-003556/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Acceptability of the NNRP-funded cableway project in Trieste in view of the environmental impacts and financial risks

The cableway infrastructure planned to be built in Trieste with national recovery and resilience plan (NNRP) funds received a negative evaluation in its environmental impact assessment because of its impact on biodiversity. Considering that 'do no significant harm' (DNSH) is a fundamental principle for NNRP funds, if the requirements are not met by 2026, the funds will not be granted, even though the infrastructure would already have been built. Thus, the population of Trieste would suffer a double loss: the permanent environmental damage and the financial burden of covering the maintenance and construction costs. The project has faced opposition from residents and associations, but their voices have been ignored in the decision-making process.

In the light of the above:

1. Is it acceptable that a project that was proven to have a negative impact on biodiversity in a Natura 2000 area is being continued, with NNRP funds, based on 'compensations' for the relevant damage to the environment?
2. Is it acceptable that the citizens of Trieste are obliged to take this high financial risk against their will, should the evaluation of the project not fulfill DNSH requirements?
3. Was this issue highlighted in the Commission's recent negotiations about mobility infrastructure measures with the Italian Ministry? What was the outcome?

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