

**Question for written answer E-000698/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Cornelia Ernst (The Left)

Subject: Extending a railway line in a Habitats Directive special conservation area

Between Rahlstedt and Ahrensburg (Germany), the Habitats Directive special conservation area 'Stellmoor-Ahrensburger Tunneltal' is located within both Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein. Within Hamburg, the areas to the right and left of the existing line are Habitats Directive sites; and in Schleswig-Holstein the line runs along the boundary with the Habitats Directive site. The new two-track S4 route is to be built to the west of the existing line. That means that Habitats Directive sites will be destroyed within Hamburg, as they will be in Schleswig-Holstein, because construction site access ways and noise barriers will be built in the Habitats Directive area to the east of the existing line.

1. What does the Commission think of the extension of the railway line if Habitats Directive areas are also affected?
2. In the Commission's view, how important are Habitats Directive areas for preserving biodiversity?

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