

**Question for written answer E-001029/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Compliance with climate requirements of the Nardò Technical Center (NTC) automotive plant enlargement plan

In follow-up to Question E-003205/2023, the Commission asked the Italian Government what the reasons of overriding public interest and other issues relating to the enlargement of the NTC plant were that were liable to compromise SCI ITASI50027 and the SAC, with Habitat 9340 and Priority Habitat 6220¹.

On 20 December 2023, I drew the attention of the European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries to a breach of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive owing to the failure to assess alternatives, as reported by Italia Nostra.

The project in question will entail the uprooting-up of 200 hectares of dense woodland, 40 hectares of which is in Habitat 9340, which will mean thousands of tonnes of CO₂ not being absorbed each year and loss of the carbon stored in trunks, roots and soil.

Can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Is the decision to grub up vegetation not a breach of EU law², given the lack of evidence of a rigorous assessment of alternative locations?
2. Is the decision to grub up vegetation not contrary to EU law, to climate obligations and to the obligation to ensure that carbon sinks and forests are preserved, based on Article 7(1)(b) and Article 9(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 and commitments under Regulation (EU) 2018/84?
3. What initiatives have been adopted when it comes to action under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive?

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¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-003205-ASW_EN.html

² This with specific reference to Judgment 239/2006 of the Court of Justice of the European Union;