

EN  
P-002637/2024  
Answer given by Ms Roswall  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(8.1.2025)

The Commission is aware that a non-governmental organisation is collecting signatures against the project. However, it is not involved in its approval procedure which is under the responsibility of the competent national and regional authorities.

As already stated in the reply to written question E-698/2024, according to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive<sup>1</sup>, the competent national authorities can agree to a project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 site concerned, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. Article 6(4) of the Directive sets out that projects may be approved even if they have a significant impact on Natura 2000 sites, but only in the absence of alternative solutions and for imperative reasons of overriding public interest; in those cases, Member States must take all necessary compensatory measures and the Commission must be notified about them. In case the priority habitats or species are affected, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest<sup>2</sup>.

As Germany did not submit a notification or request for an opinion related to this project in the context of application of Article 6(4), the Commission has no indication that the project would significantly affect the Natura 2000 sites concerned.

---

<sup>1</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora; OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p.7.

<sup>2</sup> The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/11e4ee91-2a8a-11e9-8d04-01aa75ed71a1>